

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

TRIBUTE TO FLORINE MARK

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise to congratulate Florine Mark on being a recipient of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's Jewish Community Boneh Kehillah Award. It is my privilege to applaud Ms. Mark as a deserving community member and friend for her many years of entrepreneurship, community service, and civil activism on a day when she is being acknowledged for her vast achievements.

As President and Chairman of the Board of The WW Group, Inc., Ms. Mark displays a keen business sense and devotion to promoting the physical and mental well-being of her fellow citizens, a commitment that she has worked diligently to nurture and expand for over 30 years.

In addition to her successful business career, Ms. Mark displays a devotion to the community at large and a gracious heart through her insight and support of local and national organizations on women's issues, healthy lifestyles, and the preservation of our rich cultural heritage. The American Heart Association, Detroit Institute for Children, Detroit Renaissance and Seeds of Peace are just a few of the many organizations that have benefited from her involvement.

Beyond her role as a business leader and pillar of the community, Ms. Mark is also the proud mother of 5 children and 19 grandchildren who share a bond of giving and receiving to each other, their neighbors and community.

I am honored to express my gratitude and admiration to Ms. Mark for the profound impact she has on the lives of men and women around the country and her impact on the Metro-Detroit Community. She truly exemplifies "Boneh Kehilla".

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Ms. Mark on this momentous occasion. May she know of our admiration and warmest wishes for continued success.

HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY— YOM HASHOAH

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate Yom HaShoah, Holocaust Remembrance Day. I join the Jewish communities of my district in Brooklyn, the entire American Jewish community, and the State of Israel in recognizing this barbaric chapter of world history.

Over 60 years ago, the Nazi regime in Germany began the wholesale slaughter of the European Jewry. This occurred with little public outrage in the United States and the international community. The world, as well as the American government under President Franklin Delano Roosevelt, refused to act to save European Jewry and that silence undoubtedly contributed to the death of six million Jews, a million of whom were children.

When we hear the number six million, we shudder. The enormity of that number is paralyzing. Merely trying to count to six million would take months. Imagining the Nazi death machine executing so many human beings is daunting. Particularly for those of us who have not survived the Holocaust, absorbing the reality of that destruction from survivors is so essential to passing on the history of the Holocaust.

The moving museums and heart wrenching memorials dedicated to the Holocaust across the United States are vital in educating today's youth about the horrors of the Holocaust, and I want to commend all organizations and groups that are committed to this important work. It is additionally critical that European countries preserve the glaring remnants of the Holocaust that still exist today. Whether they are death camps, mass gravesites, cemeteries, synagogues or other holy sites from pre-Holocaust Europe, European governments have an obligation to preserve those sites for future generations. Sadly, numerous European countries including Lithuania, Ukraine and Romania have on occasion shirked their responsibilities in this regard.

While we remember the absolute devastation the Holocaust wrought on the Jewish community, we also mark the strength of those who heroically resisted the Nazis including those who fought in the Warsaw Ghetto Uprising and at the Sobibor extermination camp.

I am privileged to represent a large but dwindling population of Holocaust survivors in my district. Many of these survivors rebuilt their lives with nothing more than the shirt on their back. Today, based on the strong foundations of those Holocaust survivors, the beautiful Jewish communities of Williamsburg, Midwood and Canarsie have flourished. These communities represent the best of Jewish life and have been instrumental in resurrecting religious life in the aftermath of the Holocaust by creating synagogues, yeshivas, and other religious institutions.

Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to recognize the efforts of organizations that have taken extraordinary steps in servicing and caring for the Holocaust survivor population in my district: The Metropolitan Council on Jewish Poverty; The United Jewish Organizations of Williamsburg; The Council of Jewish Organizations of Flatbush; The Jewish Community Council of Canarsie; The Conference of Jewish Material Claims Against Germany; Peasch Tikvah and all the Bikkur Cholim organizations. Their selfless work for Holocaust survivors continues to serve as an

inspiration to me and I am honored to recognize their hard work.

Madam Speaker, I join my colleagues here today in remembering the Holocaust. Though there are still Holocaust deniers today, it is imperative that we never forget.

TRIBUTE TO THE TUCKER HIGH SCHOOL BOYS BASKETBALL TEAM

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, in the Fourth Congressional District of Georgia, only a few schools excel in competition on a State level that ignites a community.

Under the leadership and guidance of Coach James Hartry, the Tucker High School Boys Basketball team has won a State Championship for the school, the city of Tucker and our beloved Fourth Congressional District.

These Tenacious Tigers of Tucker have demonstrated the will to win, the courage to win, the mechanics of teamwork and the astounding spirit of triumph from a mental and physical battle.

The 9th day of March, 2007 will go down in history as the day that our Tucker High School Boys Basketball team became the AAAA Champions of Georgia.

The team exhibited great moral character on and off the basketball court through the halls of Tucker High.

I was pleased to set aside March 31, 2007, to honor and recognize the Tucker High School Basketball Team for its victory for our District.

TRIBUTE TO MARK D. LERNER, VICE PRESIDENT OF THE ANNETTE M. AND THEODORE N. LERNER FAMILY FOUNDATION

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mark D. Lerner, Vice President of The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation, who will receive the "Chadesh Yameinu" (which means 'renewing our days' in Hebrew) Award from the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School of Rockville, Maryland, where Mr. Lerner has served as a board member and is a proud alumni parent. Mr. Lerner's vision of community service and his unwavering dedication to seeding tomorrow's leaders by supporting their education today made him an ideal recipient for this prestigious award.

Mark D. Lerner is a principal of Lerner Enterprises, the estate development, management, and investment company founded by his

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

father, Theodore N. Lerner, more than 50 years ago. In 2006, along with his father and brothers-in-law, Mark became a principal owner of Major League Baseball's Washington Nationals, in large part because of a "family model" of ownership lauded by Major League Baseball as the ideal way to ensure continuity and growth, both for the team and for the greater Washington community. Mark believes in a vision of athletics as a catalyst for civic renewal and that vision extends to his many other professional business interests.

Mark's dedication to community service is illustrated by his impressive record of volunteerism and philanthropy, whether serving as a valued board member or participating in the daily life of institutions fighting for the causes he champions. As Vice President of The Annette M. and Theodore N. Lerner Family Foundation, he provides generous support to Jewish organizations in the fields of higher education, community-building, religious life, and tolerance. Pairing his investment in strengthening Jewish communal life with his passion for athletics, he has co-chaired the JCC Maccabi Games of Greater Washington and continues to seek out opportunities to foster community through sport.

Mark Lerner has displayed an unwavering commitment to the Charles E. Smith Jewish Day School throughout his years of involvement as a parent, alumni parent, and steadfast supporter. He chaired the Building Committee of Operation Excellence, the CESJDS campaign for the construction of the state-of-the-art Lower and Upper School campuses. Until recently, he also was a member of the Board of Directors and chaired the Building and Grounds Committee. His expertise in the area of real estate management has guided the school's expansion and ensured that its students are equipped to thrive in a space that nourishes their love of learning.

CESJDS honors a distinguished member of our community every year with the "Chadesh Yameinu" Award. With a name drawn from a Hebrew prayer that refers to "renewing our days," the Chadesh Yameinu Award expresses the school's appreciation for the recipient's contribution to the institution's continued vitality and, by extension, to the promise of a bright Jewish tomorrow.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in paying tribute to Mark D. Lerner, whose commitment to Jewish education and his leadership in community service and philanthropy serve as a shining example to future generations.

HONORING BENTON COWLES

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Benton Cowles, a remarkable public servant and friend from my home State of Kentucky. Mr. Cowles recently announced his intention to retire as the Edmonson County Property Valuation Administrator after 21 years of service.

Benton Cowles has served the Edmonson County community for the past three decades; first as Deputy PVA and then as PVA, a position he has held for the past 21 years. Mr.

Cowles' father had also held this important role in the local government.

Benton Cowles and his wife Teresa raised their family in Brownsville and have remained deeply invested in the Edmonson County Community. Outside his role in the local government, Mr. Cowles has spent time as a member of the Chamber of Commerce, the Brownsville Education Site based decision making council, and has volunteered with the Boy Scouts of America. He has also served as a damage coordinator for the Edmonson County Department of Emergency Management.

On behalf of the countless men and women who have benefited from his skill and generosity, I would like to express my profound appreciation to Mr. Cowles for his years of service and wish him a happy and healthy retirement.

It is my privilege to recognize Mr. Benton Cowles today, before the entire U.S. House of Representatives, for his exemplary citizenship and community leadership. His unique contributions to the Edmonson County community make him an outstanding American, worthy of our collective honor and respect.

SHAREHOLDER VOTE ON EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1257, the Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act, which ensures that shareholders have a say in corporate executive compensation plans and golden parachute packages for executives who are negotiating the purchase or sale of the company.

For too long, executive compensation has been determined behind closed boardroom doors. The results have been that executives' pay has skyrocketed to the point of absurdity.

In 1991, the average large-company CEO received roughly 140 times the pay of an average worker. In 2003, the ratio was up to 500 to 1. It takes CEOs of the Nation's top companies the first two hours of the first workday of the new year to make \$10,712. It takes a minimum wage worker 40 hours a week, 52 weeks a year to make the same. According to a report by Americans United for Change, those CEOs make \$5,279 an hour, \$10,982,000 a year, or 1,025 times more than their minimum wage employees.

These numbers are even more stunning when one considers that those salaries are not based on performance. As hearings held by Chairman FRANK have shown, even executives of companies that lose money, restate earnings, and face extensive regulatory scrutiny have received substantial compensation packages.

The Shareholder Vote on Executive Compensation Act would help hold board members accountable when setting executive pay by allowing shareholders to vote on whether they approve of the compensation packages or not. It would also give shareholders the right to vote on golden parachute packages that executives may negotiate for themselves when

arranging the purchase or sale of the company.

Although these votes are non-binding, shareholders' voices will be heard. Executives and boards of directors will have to give weight to the shareholders' opinions when deciding on what the gold-plated packages of executives will look like. And, it will let executives know they are being watched when negotiating the selling price of a company while simultaneously negotiating an additional personal exit package.

A similar shareholder vote has been in practice in the United Kingdom since 2003 and is now used in Australia as well. The policy is credited with improving management/shareholder dialogue on executive compensation matters and increasing the use of long-term performance targets in incentive compensation. It was recently adopted voluntarily by Aflac, and according to Institutional Shareholder Services, is currently pending before 52 companies. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1257 and make it the norm for all U.S. companies.

CONGRATULATING THE EMPLOYEES OF HOLCIM IN THEODORE, AL ON RECEIVING THE 2006 COUNCIL OF STATE GOVERNMENTS ASSOCIATES AWARD FOR CORPORATE CITIZENSHIP

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor the Holcim cement plant in Theodore, Alabama, for winning the Council of State Governments (CSG) Associates award for outstanding corporate citizenship.

The CSG Associates award recognizes those who have shown great dedication in service to their communities. The nominations for the award are submitted by state officials from across the country, and the CSG leadership then chooses a winner. The 156 employees of the Holcim Theodore plant were honored with this prestigious award for their service to the Theodore community—and surrounding areas—in the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina.

There are two specific efforts of the employees of the Theodore plant that were highlighted by the award. First, Holcim played a key role in rebuilding the Bayou La Batre Rural Health Clinic. This clinic, serving mostly the less fortunate, was destroyed by Hurricane Katrina and then, only days before its reopening, was ravaged by a fire. With the help of other local industries, Holcim led fundraising efforts to rebuild the clinic, contributing \$50,000 of the \$120,000 raised.

Holcim also sponsored two students from Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta as temporary summer staff at the clinic.

Second, the CSG Associates recognized Holcim for its efforts towards rebuilding new homes in Theodore for those who were displaced by Hurricane Katrina. Joining with Habitat for Humanity, Holcim donated concrete for 11 new homes, while Holcim employees volunteered their time and effort to build the new homes.

Holcim's honors, however, do not stop with the CSG Associates award. They have received honors not only at the local level but

also the national level. Recently, the Theodore plant won the Environmental Performance award from the Portland Cement Association. Additionally, Dow Jones Sustainability Index named Holcim as "Leader of Industry," and for four years, Holcim has been noted in the Dow Jones Sustainability World Index and the Dow Jones STOXX Sustainability Index in Europe.

Holcim (US) Inc. is one of the Nation's leading manufacturers and suppliers of cement and mineral components. With 14 manufacturing plants and over 70 distribution facilities in the United States, the Holcim Theodore plant is a shining star in Holcim's corporate constellation.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join with me in congratulating the Holcim cement plant in Theodore, Alabama, for all of their great accomplishments. I know the plant manager, Joe McFalls, the employees, their friends, families, and members of the community join with me in praising Holcim for their many accomplishments, and I extend thanks for their continued service to Mobile County and the First Congressional District.

TRIBUTE TO THE UNIVERSITY
OF WISCONSIN WHITEWATER
WHEELCHAIR BASKETBALL
TEAM

HON. TAMMY BALDWIN

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. BALDWIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Wheelchair Basketball team, who—in a stunning display of athleticism and courage, captured the 2007 National Intercollegiate Wheelchair Basketball Championship.

Led by Coach Tracy Chynoweth, the Warhawks capped an extraordinary season by defeating the Fighting Scots of Edinboro University to win their fourth national championship in 5 years. UW-Whitewater coiled a 28–2 season record, with a conference record of 18–0.

The Warhawks were led by freshman stand-out Joe Chambers, who averaged 15 points and 10 rebounds this season and registered 23 points and 12 rebounds in the championship game. His play was complemented by National Play-of-the-Year Matt Scott, who averaged 14.5 points per game, including 14 points and 9 rebounds against Edinboro. "It's an honor to be a part of this team," said Chambers. "We clicked on all cylinders and played like a band of brothers." The Warhawks are favored to return to the National Title game next year as they lose only one player from this year's championship team.

Winning the title in front of 1,750 fans, the Warhawks brought tremendous victory home to the great state of Wisconsin and established their dominance as the premiere wheelchair basketball program in the country. I sincerely congratulate the University of Wisconsin-Whitewater Wheelchair Basketball team for their remarkable achievements and wish them the best of luck in their quest to repeat as National Champions.

TAXPAYER PROTECTION ACT OF
2007

SPEECH OF

HON. SILVESTRE REYES

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. REYES. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 1677, the Taxpayer Protection Act of 2007.

This bill accomplishes several important objectives. It cracks down on websites that attempt to strip unwitting consumers of sensitive information by imitating the IRS website. Electronic filing is on the rise, which is good for both consumers and the IRS, and we must make sure Americans feel comfortable and secure when paying their taxes online.

This legislation would also require the IRS to notify a taxpayer when it becomes evident in the course of a tax fraud investigation that he or she may have been the victim of identity theft. In the past, when presented with evidence of such fraud, the IRS, incredulously, would not apprise an individual of the serious situation he or she was facing. This must change.

In addition, the bill would also simplify tax filing requirements for businesses owned jointly by a husband and wife and make it easier for a married couple to file as a single proprietor of a business rather than as a partnership. It increases consumer protections from predatory providers of refund anticipation loans, gives taxpayers more time to recover property seized improperly by the IRS, and updates federal law to stop certain forms of tax fraud.

Perhaps most importantly, this bill would strengthen our outreach to people entitled to cash back on their tax returns under the Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC). The EITC is effective because it rewards work. The families of Americans who work hard but don't earn a lot should not be forced to live in poverty. However, recent evaluations have shown that approximately 25 percent of hardworking households eligible for the EITC have not claimed it, and billions of dollars in targeted tax credits did not end up in the hands of the workers who needed them most.

When hundreds of millions of Americans step up to invest in their country by paying their taxes, they must know that Congress is looking out for their best interests. By passing this bill, we are doing just that.

I thank my colleagues and urge passing of the bill.

RECOGNIZING YOM HASHOAH, HOLOCAUST MARTYRS' AND HEROES' REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. KENDRICK B. MEEK

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. MEEK of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to join my colleagues and my constituents in solemn recognition of Yom Hashoah, or Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day; a special day where we mourn the millions of Jews who perished at the hands of the Nazis.

This day has special significance for Jews, the main target of Nazi atrocities. I represent many constituents who are Holocaust survivors and many more that lost friends, relatives and loved ones. We mourn their loss; honor their memory; and unite in opposition to acts of bigotry and intolerance.

We also pause to remember the innocent people of Darfur. The mass killings, acts of rape, and displacement of innocent civilians occurring daily in Darfur is unconscionable and must end. This is a moment in human history when the poignant expression "Never Again" must be repeated over and over again, coupled with real action to end this tragic period of human suffering.

This year, as we commemorate Holocaust Martyrs' and Heroes' Remembrance Day on Capitol Hill, we pause to remember one Holocaust survivor, Professor Liviu Librescu, who was tragically killed on the campus of Virginia Tech protecting his students from a gunman who murdered 32 innocent people.

His death occurred on Monday, April 16, the day Israelis commemorated Yom Hashoah.

A native of Romania, Liviu Librescu survived the Holocaust, endured years of communist oppression in Eastern Europe, immigrated to Israel in 1978 and then relocated to the United States where he taught engineering science and mathematics.

Before the tragedy at Virginia Tech, Professor Librescu was known as a passionate, world class educator who dedicated his life to teaching students. Now, he will also be remembered as the hero who saved lives by blocking a doorway from an oncoming killer, allowing students to escape to safety. Professor Librescu sacrificed his life, so that others may live. His selfless action in the face of such terrifying danger epitomizes the heroism and courage that defined Liviu Librescu's life.

May the memory of Liviu Librescu, the six million Jews who perished in the Holocaust, and the victims of genocide in Darfur be blessed for all eternity.

RECOGNITION OF
SUPERINTENDENT PAUL VRANISH

HON. CIRO D. RODRIGUEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. RODRIGUEZ. Madam Speaker, I rise here today to pay tribute to a great educator: Mr. Paul Vranish, Superintendent for Tomillo Independent School District. The Texas Education Agency named Mr. Vranish the Communities in Schools Superintendent of the Year.

Mr. Vranish became the Superintendent of Tomillo ISD in June 2002. He was recognized for his part in his "Parent Chats" program which encourages better communication between the community and the school district.

Along with increasing dialogue between the district officials and the public, Mr. Vranish has also worked to bring his students and community the information and technology they need to excel in the world by providing increased computer access and free high-speed internet access to Tomillo, a small Texas town near the Mexico border.

Mr. Varnish is a dedicated educator who has done much to provide a quality education

for his students and community. I wish to congratulate Mr. Vranish for receiving the Communities in Schools Superintendent of the Year from the Texas Education Agency.

TRIBUTE TO WILLIAM CLAY FORD, JR.

HON. SANDER M. LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate William Clay Ford, Jr., on being a recipient of the Jewish Community Center of Metropolitan Detroit's "City of Detroit" Boneh Kehillah Award. Mr. Ford displays an unwavering devotion, as a business and community leader, to the people and the company that help define Detroit as the Motor City. It is my privilege to acknowledge Mr. Ford for his exemplary commitment to the growth of 21st century innovation and ushering in a renewed sense of community and pride to the citizens of Metro Detroit.

Among the many titles Mr. Ford has held throughout his career with Ford Motor Company, he is most notably recognized for serving as the President and CEO of Ford Motor Company and for his continuing role as executive chairman of the board of directors. Mr. Ford is a proven leader in the automotive industry and a conscientious environmentalist, a combination that allows him to promote technology that improves our lives while investing in Michigan's economic future and preserving our planet.

Mr. Ford displays a commitment to the spread of ideas and humanitarianism that reach far beyond the walls of the boardroom. He humbly utilizes his resources to give back to the community and takes an active role in organizations that promote regional economic revitalization such as Detroit Renaissance and the Detroit Economic Club. Mr. Ford inherited a name that is easily identified with Detroit, but it is his actions and personal convictions that ultimately define him as a spirited leader in our community.

I am honored to express my gratitude and admiration to Mr. Ford. He truly exemplifies "Boneh Kehillah" through his on-going efforts to foster a bold plan for the future of Metro Detroit and its workers.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Ford on this momentous occasion. May he know of our admiration and warmest wishes for continued success.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. TOWNS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to express my sorrow and disbelief over the

massacre at Virginia Tech. I join a country and Congress, especially my colleague from Virginia, that are still experiencing profound mourning and shock. I extend my deepest sympathies to the families and friends of all the Virginia Tech victims. We all continue to have the injured victims in our prayers.

I particularly want to recognize the heroism of Virginia Tech Professor, Liviu Librescu, who was gunned down while blocking his classroom door while he and his students were under attack, ultimately sacrificing his own life for those of his students.

Mr. Librescu, age seventy-six, was born in Romania and survived the Holocaust and his internment in a labor camp and Focșani ghetto. He and his family later survived the oppression of the Romanian dictator, Nicolae Ceaucescu, and ultimately left Romania for Israel after then Israeli Prime Minister, Menachem Begin, personally intervened for the family's release. He came to Virginia Tech to teach in 1986.

Liviu Librescu was a celebrated scientist who was an expert in composite structures and aeroelasticity, which worked earned him NASA grants and other prestigious awards for his impressive work.

Madam Speaker. Liviu Librescu is to be buried imminently in his native Israel.

Yesterday, the Jewish community, in my native Brooklyn, volunteered to hold a service for Mr. Librescu in Borough Park and hundreds of Brooklyn residents gathered to pay their respects to Mr. Librescu and his widow Marlena Librescu, before they returned to Israel. The care and concern shown by the Brooklyn community for the Librescus, was truly remarkable.

I think New York State Assemblyman, Dov Hikind, said it best when he remarked about Mr. Librescu that, "not only was he a hero of the Jewish people, but a hero of all people".

May his remembrance be a blessing.

TRIBUTE TO BOB KEEGAN

HON. HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia. Madam Speaker, after nearly 33 years of service with the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), Bob Keegan, deputy director of the Global Immunization Division, retired on March 30, 2007. Bob spent the first 11 years of his career in STD control, first as a public health advisor in Newark, NJ, and New York City; as STD regional training instructor in Atlanta; as deputy to Marty Goldberg in Houston, TX; and finally as the STD education specialist in Atlanta.

From 1985 to 1990, Bob coordinated CDC's Refugee Health Activities in Southeast Asia, helping to assure that refugees from Vietnam, Cambodia, and Laos were immunized and treated for communicable diseases.

In 1991, Bob joined the newly formed Polio Eradication Activity, which had a staff of six and an annual budget of \$3 million. Since that time, the Activity has grown to become the Global Immunization Division, GID, with a staff of 100, and an annual budget of more than \$140 million. GID has expanded to include measles mortality reduction and regional elimination, and routine immunization strengthening. As the deputy director of GID, Bob has

helped CDC become a major force in the global polio eradication initiative. Bob is a recipient of the William C. Watson Jr. Medal of Excellence, Public Health Advisor of the Year Award from the Watsonian Society, the Philip Home Award from NIP, and the CDC Foundation Heroes Award.

Bob worked closely with the CDC Foundation, CDC colleagues, Rotary International, and partners to help establish the Polio Eradication Heroes Fund. This fund honors those injured or killed while working on vaccination campaigns with recognition and a cash award for their families. Bob also helped the CDC Foundation establish the Endowment for Global Health Priorities, providing a flexible funding source for essential services and equipment for CDC's global health activities. This endowment has been especially useful to support activities in the field.

Although not part of his official duties, Bob is the developer and administrator of CDC Chatter.net, an unofficial blog for CDC employees.

Bob is known as an innovative leader, a superb manager and creative trainer, and, at times, a rabble-rouser. He has served as an informal mentor to many and has gained deep respect and friendship from colleagues around the world. Not quite ready to put his feet up, Bob plans to ride his recumbent tricycle across the United States this summer before joining Gloria, his wife, in London where she will continue her career in school counseling.

I congratulate him on his achievements.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TEACH FOR AMERICA ACT

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Teach for America Act and to ensure that this important program gets the Federal support it needs to expand and put more outstanding recent college graduates in our Nation's underserved schools. I thank my bipartisan cosponsors, Congressman CASTLE, Congresswoman DELAUNO, Congressman REGULA, and Congressman SARBANES, for their work on this issue.

Teach for America is a national corps of college graduates of all academic majors who commit two years to teach in public schools. Since its creation in 1990, more than 12,000 exceptional individuals have joined Teach for America and directly impacted the lives of over 2 million students in under-resourced schools across the country.

What's more, when these teachers leave the program, they often continue to work in education and public service. Sixty-three percent of Teach for America alumni remain in education as teachers, principals, school founders, and policy advisors. Others pursue work in fields such as law, medicine, and social work where they continue to increase opportunities for children living in low-income communities.

Madam Speaker, 17 years of experience have proven that Teach for America is a program that works. We in Congress have supported this program in the past. Our bill would cement our partnership with this important initiative by making Teach for America a federally-authorized program. It would help Teach

for American expand its recruitment, selection, training, and support of new teachers. It would put more enthusiastic, outstanding teachers in high-need schools. And it would help the program build new leaders in education and public service.

I urge my colleagues to join me to pass the Teach for America Act. Let's help this exceptional and proven program expand its reach and reduce teacher shortages in the areas where their services are so desperately needed.

HONORING CAMPBELLVILLE
UNIVERSITY

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Campbellsville University on the occasion of its Centennial Celebration.

Founded in 1906 as the Russell Creek Academy, Campbellsville University's origins were concentrated on primary, secondary, teacher and pastor training. The following year, the academy added classes in music, art and a diploma program that included Greek, modern languages, algebra, and ancient history. Over the last 100 years, Campbellsville University has grown to over 2,200 students with 40 undergraduate programs and 9 graduate programs.

Throughout its first century, Campbellsville University has firmly established itself as a leading institution of Higher Christian Education in Kentucky, across the country, and in far corners of the world. The long tenure and continued success of the university is due in large part to an impressive fidelity to its mission: academic excellence solidly grounded in the liberal arts, personal growth, integrity, and fellowship.

I am honored to represent Campbellsville University in the United States Congress. The university exemplifies Christian Service through its consistent leadership in community affairs throughout the region. When new challenges arise in surrounding communities, Campbellsville University is always first to face the task and work toward solutions.

It is my great privilege to recognize Campbellsville University today before the entire U.S. House of Representatives for 100 years of excellence, producing generations of talented, service-minded citizens who continue to make significant contributions to our world.

HONORING HOLOCAUST
REMEMBRANCE DAY

HON. JANICE D. SCHAKOWSKY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, before I begin my remarks, I would like to take a moment to send my prayers and condolences to the entire Virginia Tech community. The Nation and world are mourning with you. The United States Congress stands at your side.

As today is Holocaust Remembrance Day, I would like to extend special recognition to one of the 32 victims of this unbelievable catastrophe. Liviu Librescu, 76 at the time of his death, had known tragedy since childhood. When Romania joined forces with Nazi Germany in World War II, the young Librescu was interned in a labor camp, and then sent along with his family and thousands of other Jews to a central ghetto in the city of Focsani. Hundreds of thousands of Romanian Jews were killed by the collaborationist regime during the war, yet Liviu Librescu survived.

Liviu Librescu was an internationally respected aeronautics engineer and a lecturer at Virginia Tech for 20 years. He saved the lives of several students by blocking the gunman before he was gunned down in the shooting.

I know that Professor Librescu would join me in expressing solidarity with Jews across this Nation and around the world in honoring Holocaust Remembrance Day, or as it is known in Hebrew, Yom HaShoah.

My district, the 9th Congressional District of Illinois, is home to the largest concentration of survivors in the State of Illinois and perhaps in the country, and this day holds deep meaning for those individuals and the entire community.

Recent events in the Middle East and around the world underscore the importance of this day. Anti-Semitic and anti-Israel rhetoric and demonstrations continue in numerous countries. The Iranian President, Mahmoud Ahmadinejad, has threatened to use nuclear weapons to wipe Israel off the face of the map.

With anti-Semitism on the rise, we must be reminded that "Never Again" is not a guarantee, but a pledge that we must uphold through education, dialogue, and determination. It also reminds us that we must continue to strengthen the U.S. commitment to the security of Israel. Moreover, we must redouble our efforts to bring lasting peace to the Middle East.

"Never Again" means that we must combat hate wherever it exists. While the Holocaust was a unique incident, a genocide is taking place right in front of our eyes in the Darfur region of Sudan. In February 2006 I traveled to Darfur where President Bush and the U.S. Congress have officially acknowledged "genocide" is taking place. The conflict has spilled across international borders and hundreds of thousands have fled into Chad. The window to provide security and hope is narrowing. According to the Commander of the African Union forces who briefed the participants of my Congressional Delegation in Darfur, "There is no sense of urgency outside."

As a Jew, I cannot sit idle while these atrocities continue to unfold in Darfur. The lessons from the Holocaust have taught us that we must never turn a blind eye to terror or discrimination. We must demand that our government hold those who carry out acts of needless brutality accountable. I believe that everyone should take a moment today to consider the role of the U.S. in the prevention and prosecution of genocide.

The Holocaust was the most horrific human atrocity the world saw during the last century and perhaps in the history of the planet. Millions of Jews and others were brutalized, raped, beaten, dehumanized, enslaved, robbed, and murdered. While it is hard to grasp how terrible those events must have been, what all of our children, and we must do

is to listen to the stories of those few remaining survivors of the Holocaust and ensure that their stories and their suffering are a permanent part of history.

Today we honor and mourn those who perished. We vow to live our lives in a way that pays tribute to their memory and ensures others will not suffer their fate.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF
ARMY SPECIALIST ROBERT MATTHEW
MCDOWELL

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a brave, young man who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country while helping to spread freedom abroad.

Army SPC Robert Matthew McDowell, a young man whose family lives in Mobile, was on his second tour of duty in Iraq. He served as a military policeman and was based at Fort Drum, New York, with the Army's 10th Mountain Division.

Matt recently returned to Iraq after being on leave for the birth of his son, Nathan Matthew McDowell. One of the last photos made of Matt was of him holding his newborn baby boy in his proud, loving arms. It is a photo that, no doubt, young Nathan Matthew will look back on with great pride in the years to come.

Unfortunately, Matt was serving as the gunner on a heavy-duty Army vehicle on patrol in Baghdad—a very dangerous assignment—when insurgents detonated an improvised explosive device.

Madam Speaker, at this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Matt McDowell.

His life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I know his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to SPC Matt McDowell and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy but to a people who are in the demanding but important stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his wife, Daniella McDowell; his daughter, Madison McDowell, his son, Nathan McDowell; his father and stepmother, Kim and LaDonna McDowell; his mother, Kathy Jo Kallahan; his brother, Michael McDowell; his four stepbrothers, Neal Dickman, Andy Dickman, Tyler Dickman, and Grant Dickman; and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

Madam Speaker, Matt's daughter, Madison, recently wrote a poem about her Dad. With your permission, I would like to add it into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD:

My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's different from the rest
 He wears a special uniform
 He has medals upon his chest
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's a HERO in the Army
 Although I don't see him much
 His love always surrounds me
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He's in a special place
 He watches me from heaven
 With a smile upon his face
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He is always here with me
 He holds my hand when I go outside
 Although no one else can see
 My Daddy's not your average Dad
 He fought for me and you
 I'm so very proud of you Dad
 And I love and miss you too!
 I love you Daddy,
 Madison McDowell (Roswell, NM)

Madam Speaker, it was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Make no mistake, Army SPC Robert Matthew McDowell was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero. May he rest in peace.

RECOGNIZING THE INDEPENDENT
 INSURANCE AGENTS & BROKERS
 OF NEW YORK ON ITS 125TH AN-
 NIVERSARY

HON. THOMAS M. REYNOLDS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. REYNOLDS. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise to recognize the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York on the occasion of its 125th Anniversary.

This year, the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York, or IIABNY, will celebrate its 125th year of existence. IIABNY is very proud of the constant commitment its members have made to their communities. The theme of this 125th anniversary is "IIABNY members committed to their communities for 125 years."

IIABNY was founded in Buffalo in the year 1882 as a voice for New York's independent insurance agents. After a few name and location changes, IIABNY settled in Dewitt, a suburb of Syracuse, NY. As the oldest and largest state association for independent insurance agents and brokers, IIABNY represents nearly 1,900 agencies and their nearly 20,000 employees throughout New York State.

Many leaders at the national association, the Independent Insurance Agents and Brokers of America (IIABA), have originated in New York. In 1898, Mr. C.H. Woodworth, from Buffalo, New York, was the second IIABA president. He is considered by many to be the "father of the association." Through the years, six New York members have served as the national president. Four New Yorkers have been honored with the Woodworth Memorial Award, which is bestowed upon an individual who has performed special, meritorious, and outstanding service on behalf of the independent agency system and IIABA members everywhere.

The mission of IIABNY, working in the public's best interest, is to advance the performance and success of independent insurance agencies and brokerages in New York. Starting with the landmark 1904 "Yonkers Case," clearly establishing agents' ownership of expirations, advocacy efforts have been undertaken and continue today on behalf of independent insurance agents and brokers as well as small business owners.

IIABNY has evolved as member needs have changed. IIABNY draws on vast experience from the past, strength and respect in the present, and foresight for the future of the independent agency system. Agents and brokers have come to rely on the association to be their advocate on many fronts. IIABNY clearly has an impressive history and they continue today as the voice of independent agents and brokers.

Madam Speaker, I ask that this honorable body join me in celebrating the 125th Anniversary of the Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of New York.

INTRODUCTION OF THE FEDERAL
 EMPLOYEE COMBAT ZONE TAX
 PARITY ACT

HON. FRANK R. WOLF

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. WOLF. Madam Speaker, today I am reintroducing the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act, which would provide parity by extending the tax credit currently received by military personnel to the civilian federal employees working alongside them.

It is only fair that both military and civilian employees who are serving side by side receive the same tax treatment. In fact, even contract employees can get a tax break through the foreign earned investment tax credit, but federal employees are specifically exempted from that tax credit.

As a former federal employee, I am keenly aware of the invaluable contributions federal employees make to our country. I believe we must ensure that our federal workforce is treated with fairness and respect.

The Pentagon stated in the proposed regulations for the new National Security Personnel System that "NSPS is essential to the department's efforts to create an environment in which the total force, uniformed personnel and civilians, think and operates as one cohesive unit." What kind of message does it send to civilian employees if they receive disparate tax status from their military colleagues?

Just as military personnel, federal employees serving in combat zones must leave their families behind and this can increase the financial burdens on families. Families with two working parents suddenly have only one parent able to care for the needs of the family. Military personnel in combat zones were given a tax credit back in 1913 to help alleviate their tax burden, but federal employees were left out.

Since 9/11 it has become ever more vital to have a thriving civil service participating in our efforts to fight the war on terrorism. Now more than ever in our nation's history we must take action that reflects the contributions both our civilian and military employees are making—in

the war on terrorism and as well as the daily operations of the federal government in providing the services upon which every American relies.

Federal employees are on the front lines of the war against terror.

The first American to die in Afghanistan was a CIA agent from my district.

Federal employees are in Iraq helping the Iraqi people to build a free nation.

Throughout the world, America's civil servants are serving our government and our people, often in dangerous locations.

How can we tell them we will not give them a fair and equitable tax credit that recognizes their hard work, dedication, and sacrifice?

We are asking federal employees to take on more and more responsibility every day. They are on the ground in the war on terrorism taking over new roles to relieve military personnel of tasks civilian employees can perform. They are all playing a vital role in keeping us safe and deserve to be treated with respect and fairness.

We have a long tradition in the Congress of recognizing the valuable contributions of our federal employees in both the military service and in the civil service by providing fair and equitable treatment. This is not the time to shirk our duty to the civil service.

I urge my colleagues to join me in support of the Federal Employee Combat Zone Tax Parity Act.

TRIBUTE TO PURPLE HEART
 RECIPIENT EDGAR WILTON CARR

HON. GINNY BROWN-WAITE

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. GINNY BROWN-WAITE of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the late Edgar Wilton Carr, a native of Essex, Ohio who served in the U.S. Air Force during World War II. Assigned as an Aerial Gunner with the 453rd Bombardment Group 8th, Mr. Carr bravely encountered dangerous and life-threatening events during his time in the Air Force.

As a pilot during the attack on Germany in 1944, Mr. Carr participated in the first night's bombing of Berlin. In one mission over Germany, his plane was shot down and he was forced to parachute from the damaged plane. The jump was so dangerous that part of his face and both his hands suffered severe freezing from the air temperature and altitude. Another time Mr. Carr was taken as a prisoner of war and spent fifteen months in a German prison camp.

While the mental and physical injuries he suffered in the fight against the Axis powers were great and stayed with him throughout his life, Mr. Carr always maintained a positive outlook and shared his great sense of humor with everyone he met. This light-hearted attitude made such an impression on his family that even after his passing they tell stories about him with pride and with the comment, "That's my father."

As General George Patton once said, "Wars may be fought with weapons, but they are won by men." The soldiers of World War II will always be remembered as the greatest generation, a generation that gave so much for our country. Mr. Carr was no exception and

will continue to be remembered as a defender of freedom.

Madam Speaker, veterans like Edgar Wilton Carr should be recognized for their service to our nation and for their commitment and sacrifices in battle. I am honored to present Mr. Carr's family with his long overdue Purple Heart. All Floridians should know that we truly consider him one of America's heroes.

IN HONOR OF THE 2007 CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF UPS

HON. ELLEN O. TAUSCHER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. TAUSCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise with the support of my colleagues, Hon. ANNA G. ESHOO, Hon. BARBARA LEE, Hon. MIKE HONDA, Hon. LYNN WOOLSEY, Hon. GEORGE MILLER, Hon. TOM LANTOS, Hon. ZOE LOFGREN, Hon. MIKE THOMPSON, and Hon. PETE STARK, of California, in the House of Representatives—to recognize UPS for their 100 years of service to our communities.

In 1907 in a small basement in Seattle, Washington, two young entrepreneurs set out in search of the American dream. They built that dream on the principles of providing the best service at the lowest possible cost while always being committed to reliability, courtesy, neatness and high ethical standards. One hundred years later, the commitment to those values has not wavered and that small basement company has become the largest package delivery company in the world. It is our privilege to commend UPS for 100 years of unparalleled service.

The four major themes of the UPS centennial celebration, transformation, culture, service, and responsibility underscore the commitment of UPS to its customers, employees and stockholders.

The transformation from a small basement messenger company to the world's largest package delivery company is a testament to UPS's successful business strategies. This longevity is evidence of UPS's constant focus on the future amidst the ever changing workplace.

UPS's culture of integrity, innovation, and responsibility has fostered a respected reputation worldwide. The commitment to these principles has been instrumental in earning the trust of its valued customers.

At the core of UPS's success lies its unparalleled service to our communities. Through its commitment to its customers and its valued workforce, UPS has demonstrated its dedication to our local communities.

While a strong profitable company is the goal of any business, UPS has proven its commitment to responsible business leadership. From its partnerships with local community groups to its environmental awareness, UPS has successfully demonstrated what it takes to be a responsible, strong, and profitable business.

Through each of these themes, UPS has reaffirmed its commitment to its customers, employees and stockholders. We all wish UPS continued success in the future and hope that

their second hundred years of service will be as dynamic as the first.

HONORING THE BRAVERY AND SACRIFICE OF RYAN A. BISHOP

HON. KENNY MARCHANT

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. MARCHANT. Madam Speaker, it has been said that a hero is someone who understands the degree of responsibility that comes with their freedom. Specialist Ryan A. Bishop, 32 years old, certainly understood that degree of responsibility.

Ryan enlisted in the United States Army out of a sense of service and duty to his country. As his wife of two years Melanie Bishop explained, "He believed deeply in what he was doing, and he just wanted to do his part." The freedom we enjoy as Americans is due in large part to the patriotism of such humble citizens throughout our history.

On April 14, 2007, Ryan was dismounted on combat patrol in Baghdad when his unit came under the attack of an improvised explosive device. Ryan pushed forward with his fellow soldiers as they searched for insurgents, terrorists, and others who seek to deny Iraq democracy. On that day, our nation lost a genuine hero.

Ryan graduated in 1996 from Tyler Junior College and also attended Marshall High School where he was a member of the 1990 state championship football team.

He will be missed by a loving family and a nation forever grateful for his service and humbled by his sacrifice.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. JEAN MARIE SLOUGH MCINTOSH, MOTHER OF FORMER U.S. HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE DAVID M. MCINTOSH

HON. MIKE PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the great mothers of Indiana, Mrs. Jean Marie Slough McIntosh, the late mother of former Representative David McIntosh of Indiana, my predecessor. Mrs. McIntosh dedicated her life to the service of others as a nurse and judge, but more importantly as a mother and faithful wife.

Jean McIntosh was born on December 20, 1925 in Bourbon, a small town just off the beaten path of US Highway 30 in northern Indiana. She graduated from Bourbon High School as the Class of 1943 valedictorian. Mrs. McIntosh then moved to Chicago where she studied nursing at the Methodist Hospital School of Nursing. After completing her training in nursing, she moved to San Francisco, California where she met and married Norman Benjamin and started their family of four children. After the death of her husband in 1964, Mrs. McIntosh returned to Indiana where she

remarried and raised her family in Kendallville, Indiana.

While in Kendallville, Mrs. McIntosh compassionately served her community as a nurse, and then as a two-term Kendallville City Judge beginning in 1971. After moving to Charlestown, SC in 1981, she completed her nursing career at the Psychiatric Institute of University Medical Hospital. She also taught English as a Second Language courses at Our Lady of Mercy Church.

Mrs. McIntosh is survived by two brothers, Robert Slough and James Slough; two daughters, Beth Vanderbeck and Liliane Heller; and two sons, former Congressman David McIntosh and Malcolm McIntosh.

Mrs. McIntosh left a legacy of service and compassion, and through her son, David McIntosh, served the residents of the Sixth District of Indiana. Thank you, Mrs. McIntosh, for the strong foundation of service that you laid as a faithful wife, mother, nurse, and judge. Our thoughts and prayers are with the family and friends of the late Jean Marie Slough McIntosh.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. SCOTT GARRETT

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. GARRETT of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Due to the growing complexity of financial products being offered throughout this country and the rapidly increasing number of young adults and seniors using these various products, it is essential that everyone educate themselves so they fully understand how their activities may affect their financial standing and future.

As a member of the Financial Literacy Caucus, I believe the private financial sector and local, state, and Federal government officials should continue to further expand and promote financial literacy and education. Whether it is buying a home, opening a bank account, or acquiring a credit card, consumers are faced with a myriad of complex decisions requiring a broad knowledge of our nation's financial system.

According to a July 2005 survey of 1,000 parents of high school students by Visa, parents rank developing good personal financial skills and being able to handle their money (74 percent) ahead of both following the wrong crowd (58 percent) and drugs/alcohol use (56 percent) in terms of their concerns they have for their children's futures. Only personal safety ranked higher (89 percent). This illustrates how valuable the American public considers financial literacy.

Mr. Speaker, I stand in support of the goals and ideals of financial literacy month and I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. THELMA D. DRAKE

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mrs. DRAKE. Mr. Speaker, this has been a very somber week for the Commonwealth of Virginia as we have watched tragedy unfold on one of our proud universities.

As Virginia's largest University, the Virginia Tech family extends into every corner of our Commonwealth and we have all been affected by Monday's events.

Unfortunately, we are not able to explain such unthinkable tragedies. Furthermore, mere words seem small under the weight of such a heartbreaking event. However, I express my deepest sympathy for the victims and their families and I offer a prayer of support and condolence for the Virginia Tech community.

As Virginia, and indeed the entire Nation, grieves so many young lives being lost, it is important to remember the grace, love and goodness exhibited by those who survived this horrible tragedy.

I was inspired by the ability of students, alumni, faculty, family and neighbors to come together driven by a sense of community and compassion to support others in their time of need.

As I took part in yesterday's convocation at Cassell Coliseum, I was encouraged by the leadership demonstrated by Gov. Tim Kaine, President George W. Bush and the numerous dedicated educators at Virginia Tech.

The coming days, weeks, and months will continue to be difficult ones as the Virginia Tech community comes to terms with what took place on a dark day in April. But it will also be a time of healing and I am confident that Hokie nation will be able to come back stronger because of the compassion and character that has been displayed since this tragedy.

Just as the heinous actions of one troubled individual so obviously filled with hate has left us grasping for answers, the reaction of the Virginia Tech family gave reason to make all Virginians proud and demonstrate the tremendous promise of our future generation.

COMMEMORATING HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY AND REFLECTING UPON THE GENOCIDE IN DARFUR

HON. DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Madam Speaker, last Sunday marked Holocaust Remembrance Day, which honors the memory of the six million Jews murdered in the Holocaust during World War II. We are now in the midst

of the Days of Remembrance established by the United States Congress as our Nation's commemoration of these victims. We remember the Holocaust so that the lessons and responsibilities left from this tragedy are not lost.

Always, but especially now, it is imperative that we remember and take action against the genocide that is currently taking place in Darfur. As we look to the past to remember those that perished at the hand of Nazi Germany, we must not forget the 2,500,000 Darfuri civilians targeted and displaced because of their ethnic or racial identity or the more than 300,000 people killed thus far. Tragically, over 1,600 villages have been destroyed by Sudanese government soldiers and government-backed militias. The growing number of destroyed homes and lives is a testament to the fact that simply remembering is not enough.

Madam Speaker, as you know, children are among the most helpless victims of any genocide. One million of the six million Jews that were killed in the Holocaust were children. Jewish children were targeted by the Nazi regime, and now the children of Darfur suffer the brutal effects that burning villages, shootings, rapes, and the search for refuge have on the youngest victims of this tragedy.

My heart is warmed by the work of grassroots organizations in South Florida and across the country that bring attention to the crisis in Darfur. We must heed the lessons of Holocaust Remembrance Day and make sure that another Holocaust never happens again. Racially inspired hatred has surfaced many times in the decades since the Holocaust, and it is our duty to stop the disaster in Darfur and make it the last genocide of the 21st century.

INTRODUCTION OF THE TAX EXEMPT QUALIFICATION FOR FEDERALLY GUARANTEED WATER, WASTEWATER, AND OTHER ESSENTIAL COMMUNITY FACILITY LOANS

HON. RON LEWIS

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LEWIS of Kentucky. Madam Speaker, I rise to inform my colleagues of legislation I have introduced today to assist some of our Nation's most underserved communities in funding essential infrastructure.

The legislation that I have proposed will permit interest on federally guaranteed water, wastewater, and other essential community facility loans to also qualify to be tax exempt. I introduced similar legislation in the 109th Congresses.

Rural communities throughout America continue to face challenges in accessing basic needs. We can improve this situation by supporting the development of necessary infrastructure such as dependable water and wastewater systems, and essential community facilities like schools, hospitals, and police and fire stations.

Unfortunately, many of these same communities struggle to acquire sufficient funding to support local development projects. Increased access to federally guaranteed tax exempt loans would provide significant assistance in these efforts.

I believe the incentives offered in this bill will allow small and rural communities better opportunities to receive increased credit to finance community facility projects.

I urge my colleagues to consider supporting this bill.

IN HONOR AND IN MEMORY OF STAFF SERGEANT HARRISON BROWN OF PRICHARD, ALABAMA

HON. JO BONNER

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. BONNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a young man from the First Congressional District of Alabama who recently made the ultimate sacrifice in defense of his country while helping to spread freedom abroad.

Army Staff Sgt. Harrison Brown, formerly of Prichard, was assigned to the 2nd Battalion, 69th Armor Regiment, 3rd Brigade Combat Team, 3rd Infantry Division, based at Fort Benning, Georgia. He was killed in combat earlier this month while bravely serving and protecting this great nation in Operation Iraqi Freedom.

"Duck," as he was known to his friends, joined the Army 13 years ago to provide for his wife and children. During his career in the Army, including multiple tours of duty in Iraq, Sgt. Brown set a standard of excellence and displayed the qualities of discipline, devotion, and dedication to country that are the hallmarks of men and women throughout the long and distinguished history of the American military.

A 1994 graduate of Blount High School, "Duck" played baseball and basketball and was a standout wide receiver on the varsity football team. Blount won the state 5A high school football championship while "Duck" was on the team. He went on to play one year of college football at Tuskegee University on scholarship before he joined the Army.

Madam Speaker, at this difficult time, it is only appropriate for us to pause and give thanks to God that there are still young men like Harrison Brown. His life and actions personify the very best America has to offer. I feel certain his many friends and family, as well as his comrades in the United States Army, while mourning the loss of this fine young man, are also taking this opportunity to remember his many accomplishments and to recall the fine gift they each received simply from knowing him and having him as an integral part of their lives.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to take a moment and pay tribute to Sgt. Harrison Brown and his selfless devotion to not only our country and the freedom we enjoy, but to a people who are in the demanding but important stages of a new life—a new freedom—in their own land.

We should also remember his wife, Delisha Brown; their three children; his mother, Chris Ann Brown; his sister, Mary Dozier; and his other relatives and many friends. Our prayer is that God will give them all the strength and courage that only He can provide to sustain them during the difficult days ahead.

It was Joseph Campbell who said, "A hero is someone who has given his or her life to something bigger than oneself."

Make no mistake, Harrison Brown was not only a dedicated soldier who made the ultimate sacrifice serving in the uniform of his country, but he was also a true American hero. May he rest in peace.

HONORING M.J. ROSENBERG AND THE SENTIMENT OF HIS ARTICLE "BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS"

HON. LOIS CAPPS

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. CAPPS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend the sentiments expressed in the following article by M.J. Rosenberg, the Director of Israel Policy Forum's Washington Policy Center, and a tireless advocate for peace in the Middle East. In the column, entitled "Blessed are the Peacemakers," he skillfully highlights the need to engage in aggressive diplomacy if we are to achieve peaceful results in the region. I applaud Mr. Rosenberg for his bold stance for peace and would encourage my colleagues to inform themselves of his valuable insights.

BLESSED ARE THE PEACEMAKERS

You know what they say: no good deed goes unpunished.

That is certainly the case with Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi and her visit to Syria.

At a time (the Easter-Passover recess) when dozens of House members and Senators are visiting foreign capitals and discussing policy with foreign leaders, Pelosi is being skewered for, in the words of the Washington Post's editors, "substituting her own foreign policy for that of a sitting Republican President."

The Post accuses Pelosi of "try[ing] to introduce a new U.S. diplomatic initiative in the Middle East."

Heaven forefend! Things are going so swimmingly in the Middle East that the last thing anyone needs is for the 3rd highest official in the United States trying to resuscitate diplomacy.

The specific objection is to her meeting with the Syrian leader, Bashar Assad. Of course, few could object to what she told Assad—that he should stop trouble making in Iraq and Lebanon, that the Israeli government is ready for negotiations, that Israel has no bellicose intentions toward Syria and that Syria should use its influence to free Israeli prisoners.

In fact, David Hobson, a Republican from Ohio who accompanied Pelosi, said that the Speaker did not stray very far from Bush administration policy. Hobson said Pelosi "did not engage in any Bush bashing she did not . . . bash [Bush] policies as they relate to Syria."

Instead, Hobson said, Pelosi urged Assad to curb the number of suicide bombers who cross the Syrian border into Iraq to "murder our troops and the Iraqi people."

Republican House leader, John Boehner, admitted that there was nothing wrong with legislators in general visiting Syria. "It's one thing for other members to go," Boehner said, "but you have to ask yourself, 'Why is Pelosi going?'"

The answer isn't that hard. She went for the same reasons as Tom Lantos (D-CA), Chairman of the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, as Henry Waxman (D-CA), the most senior Jewish Member of the House, as

Keith Ellison (D-MN), the first Muslim-American in Congress, as Louise M. Slaughter (D-NY), Rules Committee Chair, as Nick J. Rahall II (D-WV), the senior Arab-American in Congress, and Senior Defense Appropriator David Hobson (R-OH). She went to advance US interests in the Middle East, believing that we can perhaps get more out of Syria by engaging it than by shunning it.

The critics are feigning outrage because they don't like Pelosi (CNN, in particular, seems to have a problem with a female Speaker) and because, by visiting Syria, Pelosi has revived one of the Baker-Hamilton Report's prescriptions for ending the Iraq war: engaging Iran and Syria.

Baker-Hamilton recognizes that Syria and Iran can do more to impede the extrication of our soldiers and marines from Iraq than any other countries on the planet (with the exception of Iraq itself).

On the other hand, if they choose to, they can ease our way out of Iraq and help prevent that country's further descent into chaos and civil war.

The Israeli government added to the Pelosi controversy by saying that Pelosi did not carry any private messages from Jerusalem to Damascus. But the Israelis have been using intermediaries to convey information to the Syrians for a long time. It is inconceivable that the highest ranking American in memory to visit Damascus would visit Israel, en route to Syria, and not be asked to convey a message to President Assad from Prime Minister Olmert.

One can only hope that she was carrying messages from Israel. Why wouldn't the Israelis seize that opportunity?

Pelosi's visit strengthened America's position in the region, and likely helped Israel on prisoners, on Hezbollah, and in its effort to avoid another war like last summer's. It was a gutsy move by the new Speaker and one that deserves commendation, not criticism from those who are committed to the whole litany of failed policies of recent years. One would think that some of these pundits would look at the sheer carnage they delivered in Iraq—the 3200 American dead and the hundreds of thousands of dead Iraqi civilians—and be ashamed into shutting up. But no such luck.

In this context, and on this Good Friday, it is worth recalling Jesus' words in Matthew 5:9, "Blessed are the peacemakers for they will be called the children of God."

That is not exactly what the critics are calling Pelosi. But, the New Testament notwithstanding, peacemakers are rarely praised in their own time while the cheerleaders for unnecessary wars are never, held accountable for them.

Pelosi is too smart to expect plaudits for trying to deter war rather than simply standing firm behind a status quo that will inevitably produce the next one.

Readers of this column know that I like to harken back to the great missed opportunity of 1971. That was when Prime Minister Golda Meir rebuffed Egyptian President Anwar Sadat's call on Israel to pull back from the Suez Canal. Sadat said that in exchange for a pullback of just a few miles—which would enable Egypt to re-open the canal—he would begin negotiating a peace agreement with Israel.

This week Yediot Achronot revealed new information about the missed opportunity. Zeev Tzahor reports that then-American Secretary of State, William Rogers, was so disturbed by Golda's rejection that he enlisted Israel's first Prime Minister, David Ben Gurion, to try to persuade her to, at least, seriously consider the offer.

Let the Yediot columnist, Zeev Tzahor, tell the rest of the story:

"The 85-year-old Ben-Gurion was retired . . . His relations with Golda were poor, and

he was not particularly eager to speak with her. Rogers implored him. The Egyptian initiative is a one-time opportunity, he said, but Golda has taken a dismissive, supercilious view of it. She admires you, maybe she'll heed your advice. Ben-Gurion acquiesced, and asked his aides to put him in touch with Golda in Jerusalem.

"The brief conversation between them was acerbic. The people present in the room heard Ben-Gurion repeat why she ought to begin negotiations with Egypt . . . While the people present in the room could not hear what Golda was saying on the other side of the line, it was clear to them that she was not interested in promoting the Egyptian initiative.

"Ben-Gurion lost his patience, lambasted Golda and said she was leading Israel to catastrophe, and terminated the conversation. For some reason, he placed the receiver down on the table and not in its cradle. The people present in the room heard Golda calling, "Ben-Gurion, Ben-Gurion," but he refused to pick up the telephone again. He just kept repeating, "war is going to break out soon, war is coming."

It did. Israel lost nearly 3,000 men. Ben Gurion died a few weeks later. Israel ended up relinquishing not just the west bank of the Suez Canal, as Sadat had demanded but every last inch of the Sinai peninsula.

Until this week, I had never heard that Secretary of State William Rogers tried so hard to help Israel avert catastrophe. All I recalled about him was that the pro-Israel community despised him because he was thought to have applied pressure on Israel.

Little did I know that the pressure was in the form of the wise counsel of David Ben-Gurion, the founder of the Jewish state.

I hope Pelosi is not daunted by the criticism emanating from all the usual suspects. Her delegation's visit to the Middle East advanced America's interests and Israel's too. As they like to say in that region: the dogs bark but the caravan moves on.

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION ON THE BUDGET FOR FISCAL YEAR 2008

SPEECH OF

HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 29, 2007

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Chairman, I rise today in support of the Democratic Budget Resolution.

In the face of a burgeoning national debt, I want to commend Chairman JOHN SPRATT for drafting a budget that reflects the commitment of our new Democratic majority to restore fiscal integrity, and shift Federal budget priorities to reflect key American values.

This Budget Resolution will balance the Federal budget in 5 years by requiring that any new expenditure be offset. This is a fiscally responsible policy that turned deficits into surpluses in the 1990s.

The Democratic Budget Resolution also stands in contrast to Administration policies that have undermined long-term investments in areas that help to improve the quality of life of Americans. This Resolution addresses the shortfalls of past budgets, and reflects key American values by increasing funding levels to enhance health care for our Nation's children, and for our men and women returning from combat.

The budget resolution helps enhance and expand educational opportunities for millions of American students who have been left behind by the misguided policies of the Administration. The No Child Left Behind Act was enacted to ensure that every child, regardless of race, income, or background, receives a high quality education. Unfortunately, over the past 6 years, the Administration has never fully funded the program, forcing schools to comply with the Act's high standards without the resources needed to succeed. This budget resolution puts the education of our children first, by increasing funding for the implementation of No Child Left Behind. In addition, it increases funding for special education, the Head Start program, and student aid for higher education.

Madam Speaker, there are millions of children without health insurance, including over one million in my home state of California. This Democratic budget resolution also makes investments in the health of our Nation's children by increasing funding for the State Children's Health Insurance Program (SCHIP) by \$50 billion. This increase will help parents who worry every day about their ability to care for their children in time of illness and injury.

Equally as important, this budget resolution upholds our Nation's sacred commitment to our servicemen and women by providing for the largest veterans funding increase in the history of our Nation. The \$32 billion increase in veterans health care and services over the next 5 years is critically needed to improve existing VA healthcare facilities, and to ensure that disability claims for our returning servicemembers are quickly and accurately processed. This Democratic budget helps ensure that our veterans receive high quality and accessible care that is worthy of their sacrifice.

This fiscally responsible Democratic budget reflects the beginning of an important shift in which government truly works on behalf of the American people. I urge my colleagues to support America's future by voting for this fair and responsible Democratic Budget Resolution.

WIRELESS INNOVATION ACT, H.R.
1597

HON. JAY INSLEE

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. INSLEE. Madam Speaker, there will be under-utilized wireless spectrum in the gaps or "white spaces" between TV broadcast channels when the transition from analog to digital television is complete. These white spaces could provide broadband access to millions of Americans and enable a wide range of innovative wireless devices and services which cannot be utilized in other frequencies. White spaces spectrum must remain unlicensed because the availability of this "Swiss cheese" pattern of spectrum nationally makes licensing it impractical. An unlicensed regime would also lead to a more efficient use of the frequencies.

Unlicensed white spaces devices will avoid harmful interference with all incumbents. Cognitive radio uses spectrum sensing technology to identify and avoid occupied TV channels. This method has been approved by the Defense Department for unlicensed devices that

share spectrum with military radar. This unlicensed spectrum can be used for wireless broadband, public safety communications, and numerous at-home and business devices.

For the reasons listed above I have introduced the Wireless Innovation Act, H.R. 1597, which mandates that white spaces be used nonexclusively for unlicensed fixed or portable devices while mandating that incumbent licensees be protected from harmful interference. This legislation would provide interference protection to full power television, low power television, wireless microphones, and all other incumbent users of this spectrum. The bill also requires that the FCC permit use of unlicensed devices not later than February 18, 2009.

COMMENDING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF RUTGERS UNIVERSITY WOMEN'S BASKETBALL TEAM

SPEECH OF

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to convey my support of H. Res. 300, which commends the achievements of the Rutgers University Lady Scarlet Knights Basketball Team and applauds the character and integrity of their student-athletes.

This group often 10 extraordinary women, led by Coach C. Vivian Stringer, made the State of New Jersey proud by representing Rutgers University in the NCAA championship game. They were the first ever athletic team from Rutgers to play in any national championship.

Not only did the Lady Scarlet Knights finish their outstanding 2006–7 season with a 29–7 record, coming back after losing four of their first six games, but they also managed to maintain a combined B+ grade point average. They truly excelled both on and off the court.

I am especially proud to report that junior Essence Carson is a native of my hometown, Paterson, NJ. Essence attended two high schools, graduating from the Rosa Parks School for Fine and Performing Arts in 2004 where she studied piano, bass guitar, drums, and saxophone. She also competed athletically at Paterson Eastside High School in track and field where she won the 2004 state 400-meter title, volleyball where she was a three-time all-State selection, and basketball where she led her team to three straight county championships.

Named to the Parade All-America Second Team and the USA Today Super 25 All-America Team as a senior in high school, Essence shined in the McDonald's and Women's Basketball Coaches Association—WBCA—All-America Games. In 2003, she played for the USA Basketball Youth Development Festival East Team, which won a gold medal.

Now in her third year at Rutgers, Essence is a back-to-back Big East Defensive Player of the Year, a 2007 First Team All-Big East Honoree, a Region I All-American selection, and was named to the Big East and NCAA East Region All-Tournament teams. In only 3 years, she has managed to make more appearances in a Scarlet Knights uniform than any other

player and averaged over 12 points and 6 rebounds per game this season.

Mr. Speaker, Essence Carson and her teammates on the Rutgers University Lady Scarlet Knights Basketball Team are truly the best that this Nation has to offer. They are more than just diligent students and talented athletes. They are exceptional role models for young women throughout this country. I wish them the best of luck in their future endeavors, and I know we can expect great things from them in the years to come.

THE INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY CARBON CAPTURE AND STORAGE RESEARCH DEVELOPMENT, AND DEMONSTRATION ACT OF 2007

HON. MARK UDALL

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Madam Speaker, I am pleased to introduce the Department of Energy Carbon Capture and Storage Research, Development, and Demonstration Act of 2007. This bill will expand and enhance the Department of Energy's carbon capture research and development program to spur the creation of economically feasible and environmentally sound carbon sequestration technology. It is companion legislation to a bill introduced in the Senate by Senator BINGAMAN, chairman of the Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

Several events over the past year have helped clarify the agreement among scientists, the public, industry, and public officials that climate change is a challenge that our society must address.

Most recently, Working Groups I and II of the Intergovernmental Panel of Climate Change—IPCC—released reports as part of the panel's fourth assessment report. The first report highlighted the growing scientific consensus that human influence is causing the climate to change. The second report provides a powerful statement of the impacts of climate change around the world. The IPCC international process has government support from over 100 countries, including strong involvement from the United States. These reports document that the "warming of the climate system is unequivocal" and that sea temperatures are rising, glaciers are melting, and air temperatures worldwide are increasing, all of which will have major impacts on the world that we know.

The climate is changing and we as a society must begin addressing these changes before the economic and environmental consequences devastate our planet. And that will involve decreasing the amount of carbon dioxide, a known greenhouse gas, in the atmosphere.

Yet, it is important to come to terms with the fact that we cannot end our dependence on fossil fuels overnight. For example, coal is the most abundant energy source in the United States and one of the cheapest energy resources. My home State of Colorado is ranked sixth in coal production in the U.S. In Colorado, coal provides more than 70 percent of our electricity and employs more than 2,000 people.

Coal is a critical component of our economy and our energy supply, but unfortunately coal is also a major contributor to climate change. We must find a way to maintain our energy production while decreasing our carbon emissions. Carbon sequestration will be key to that effort.

Carbon sequestration refers to taking carbon dioxide out of the atmosphere and storing it so that the gas does not re-enter the atmosphere. Right now, companies and governments around the world are enhancing natural carbon storage sources by planting trees and advocating no-till agriculture, among many other activities. But we are still not even close to slowing the increase in greenhouse gases in our atmosphere.

Eventually, technology may allow us to remove carbon dioxide from the atmosphere and funnel it underground in long-term, airtight storage areas. But there are many obstacles to the development of technologies and methods that can significantly decrease CO₂ levels in our atmosphere. For example, we still don't know enough about the long-term stability, safety, and reliability of aquifers, coal seams, and other geological formations for CO₂ storage. Nor are we familiar with the technologies to accomplish this on the scale needed to truly decrease global carbon levels.

My legislation will build upon DOE's current carbon capture and storage program created in the Energy Policy Act of 2005. It will improve DOE's regional carbon sequestration partnerships and create seven test projects across the country to learn more about the economics and design of carbon capture and storage technology. It will also help ensure that DOE has the necessary funds to conduct this cutting-edge research.

Although it is already too late to stop the climate from changing, carbon capture and storage—in conjunction with smart energy policies—can help minimize the impact of climate change on future generations.

We must not view taking action against global warming as bringing doom and gloom to industry. Making the right choices about how to address climate change can lead to new technological innovations, a boom in American jobs, and a strengthened economy. But we must begin to make these choices now by investing in the research and development of carbon capture and storage technologies that can address the climate change challenge.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CANDICE S. MILLER

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MILLER of Michigan. Madam Speaker, had I been present on rollcall No. 226 and rollcall No. 227, I would have voted "yea" and "yea."

TRIBUTE TO SOUTH CAROLINA STATE UNIVERSITY'S ROTC PROGRAM

HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to a great source of pride for my alma mater, South Carolina State University, and our nation's military. The SC State Reserve Officers' Training Corps (ROTC) celebrates its 60th anniversary on April 20, 2007. This tremendous program, known as the Bulldog Battalion, has commissioned nearly 2,000 officers in the armed forces, and it has produced nine Army Generals, two Marine Corps Generals and one Air Force General, while contributing a significant number of highly qualified and dedicated soldiers to our nation's military.

Among SC State's notable ROTC graduates are Major General Abraham Turner, a 1976 graduate, who served as the Commanding Officer of Fort Jackson, the Army's largest training base in my hometown of Columbia, South Carolina. Second Lieutenant Jerrette Lee, class of 1983, was chosen during his senior year for the coveted Hughes Award, becoming the first African American and graduate of a Historically Black College or University to receive the honor granted to the top ROTC graduate of the year.

Another proud Bulldog Battalion graduate, Colonel Stephen Twitty, led an infantry battalion into Iraq during the early stages of the war on August 18, 2003. His leadership earned him the Silver Star medal for valor.

The remarkable record of the SC State ROTC is due in part to its rich history and tradition. The program was established in 1947 for the purpose of training infantry officers for the United States Army. In 1949, the program graduated its first class with five of the six graduates receiving Army commissions and the sixth joining the Army Reserves.

In 1954, the program expanded its mission beyond producing only infantry officers. Instead, the ROTC became a General Military Science Program, which enabled graduates to serve in any branch of the Army for which they qualified. From 1947 until 1968, all freshman and sophomore male students were required to enroll in the ROTC program at SC State. Since I am a 1961 graduate, I had the privilege of being part of this tremendous Bulldog Battalion program.

In 1968, SC State partnered with Claflin University, Voorhees College, Orangeburg Technical College and Denmark Technical College to provide ROTC training through SC State's program. The program expanded again in 1972 to allow female cadets to enter for the first time. Today, a total of 254 women have graduated from SC State's ROTC.

Graduates of this prestigious program have participated in every military conflict from World War I to the current conflicts in Iraq and Afghanistan, representing America with great skill and honor. Today the Bulldog Battalion averages an enrollment of 100 cadets.

Madam Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me in honoring South Carolina State University's ROTC program on the occasion of its 60th anniversary. It is my great privilege to have experienced this wonderful

ROTC program firsthand and to congratulate the program and its graduates today for their extraordinary contributions to our country. America owes a debt of gratitude to South Carolina State for supporting this extraordinary tradition of military excellence and to its graduates for making their alma mater and their nation proud.

THE "KATRINA HOUSING TAX RELIEF ACT OF 2007" H.R. 1562

HON. EARL POMEROY

OF NORTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POMEROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1562, the "Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act of 2007," a bill to extend and enhanced credit available for building low income housing under the Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005. For far too long the residents of the Gulf Coast have struggled to rebuild their homes, their lives and their communities. They continue to face construction delays that could cost them the Federal assistance promised in the 2005 legislation. I want to encourage my colleagues to support this legislation that will encourage the construction of low-income housing in the areas damaged by Hurricane Katrina while assuring accountability for the tax credits.

The Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 made the affected areas eligible for larger credits to encourage building low-income housing. "GO Zone" benefits are available if the project was built and placed in service before the end of calendar year 2008. H.R. 1562 recognizes the magnitude of the struggle to rebuild the housing stock and it extends the credits for two additional years—2009 and 2010.

As the Member of Congress from North Dakota where 10 years ago the City of Grand Forks was destroyed by a flood and a fire in its aftermath, I know that government can effectively provide Americans help to rebuild our communities when a disaster strikes. The 50,000 residents of Grand Forks were fortunate to have an effective Federal Emergency Management Association (FEMA) under the leadership of James Lee Witt there to assist them with the momentous task of starting from the ground up after the flood waters receded. Today Grand Forks is flourishing thanks to a well coordinated effort on the part of FEMA. The rebuilding effort drew upon Federal government resources such as Community Development Block Grants which served as a catalyst to encourage accelerated investments in Grand Forks.

This bill permits Community Development Block Grants (CDBG), available because of prior liberalizations, to be combined with all of these enhanced low-income housing credits for affected areas. Under the Katrina Housing Tax Relief Act, qualified projects will not be treated as having below market Federal loans solely by reason of assistance provided under the CDBG. Since many of the GO Zone communities have lost much, if not all, of their economic base, CDBG assistance is vital and will not restrict an otherwise qualifying building from utilizing the higher 9 percent credit. This will encourage builders to deliver more housing to the Gulf Coast communities in desperate need of homes for those who want to return and help rebuild their lives.

Finally, H.R. 1562 would require that the Government Accountability Office submit a report on the allocation and use of these tax incentives in the GO Zone to the Committee on Ways and Means and no later than one year after the date of enactment. I urge passage of H.R. 1562, a common sense bill that brings much relief to the Gulf Region.

PARTIAL BIRTH ABORTION BAN ACT

HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. KUCINICH. Madam Speaker, yesterday's decision by the Supreme Court to uphold the Partial Birth Abortion Ban Act threatens a woman's right to make her own choices about abortion and consequently choices pertaining to her own body. By upholding the first ever federal abortion ban the Supreme Court has brought us dangerously close to allowing politicians to make decisions regarding the control a woman is allowed over her own body.

The Court has, for the first time since its original ruling in 1973 establishing a woman's right to an abortion, showed no consideration for the health and safety of a woman. The decision is contrary to that of six other federal courts throughout the country. This decision disallows exceptions to be made in instances where a woman's health is at risk. In circumstances where the banned procedure is the safest for the health of the female patient, doctors will be powerless, except under threat of a two year criminal penalty, to do the right thing for their patient. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, representing ninety percent of these medical officials, agrees that the ban causes interference in medical decision making and is detrimental to women's health.

The Court's decision forces us to look at where our society really is in respect to the rights and equality of women. How can we, in good conscience, tell the young women of today that they are equal and able to accomplish their dreams if at the same time society is seeking to control their actions and make decisions with regard to their own bodies? I empathize with the frustration that women around the country are feeling today; I realize the greater restrictive implications implied by the Court's ruling.

I imagine that a woman's decision to have an abortion, under any circumstances, must be one of the most difficult she will make in her life. It is a very private, very personal decision that is to be made by her and may include the support of family, friends and medical professionals. It is not a decision that is made lightly or without consequence. Today's decision has perilously hindered a woman's privacy and safety by allowing politics to interfere in medical decisions.

We must end the divisiveness that surrounds the issue of abortion so that we may begin the long overdue healing process. We must work to limit the need for abortions while at the same time ensuring safety. Access to prenatal and postnatal care through expanded Medicare coverage will be an important component as well as a living wage. I will maintain

my support for social programs, and maternal and child nutrition programs to strengthen vulnerable families. I will continue to stand behind programs that teach sex education, domestic family planning and promote the use of contraception.

SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND IDEALS OF FINANCIAL LITERACY MONTH

SPEECH OF

HON. RUBÉN HINOJOSA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 16, 2007

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, I submit the following letters regarding H. Res. 273, "Supporting the Goals and Ideals of Financial Literacy Month."

COUNTRYWIDE,

Calabasas, CA, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
House of Representatives, Longworth House Of-
fice Building, Washington, DC.

Re: Support for H. Res. 273.

DEAR CONGRESSMAN HINOJOSA AND CONGRESSWOMAN BIGGERT: On behalf of Countrywide Financial Corporation I want to commend you and your colleagues in the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus for the introduction of H. Res. 273, which supports the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month.

Founded in 1969 on the belief that all Americans should have the opportunity to own a home, Countrywide has become the largest home mortgage lender in the nation and a leader in providing home loans to first-time buyers, minorities and low- and moderate-income families. Today, Countrywide has grown to more than 54,000 employees with 900 retail offices nationwide. We at Countrywide share the sentiments and concerns expressed in H. Res. 273, and we strongly support the goal of improving the quality and reach of financial education in America, particularly to lower- and moderate-income individuals and families.

To that end, in conjunction with Financial Literacy Month Countrywide has launched its Home Ownership Mortgage Education (H.O.M.E.) program. The H.O.M.E. program is a comprehensive online reference tool, available at www.HomeBvCountrywide.com, providing consumers with information on all aspects of homeownership, from basic personal finance to life as a homeowner. By offering this financial and homebuyer education program, Countrywide supports consumers' ability to make well-informed financial decisions as they pursue the dream of homeownership.

The H.O.M.E. program is a further extension of Countrywide's founding mission and one of several education initiatives that Countrywide supports. In January 2005, Countrywide announced a \$1 million, five-year commitment to the U.S. Conference of Mayors' DollarWise Campaign. As a founding sponsor of the campaign, Countrywide supports Capacity Grants, a component of the campaign that makes grants to cities that are developing or expanding local financial education strategies for consumers. More than 100 cities now conduct local DollarWise campaigns and Capacity Grants have been awarded to the following cities: Pleasanton (CA), Quincy (IL), Bowling Green (KY), Quad Cities (IL, IA), Detroit, Savannah and Miami.

Again, I want to express my personal support and that of our employees for H. Res. 273, and for the goals and ideals of the House Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus.

Sincerely,

ANGELO R. MOZILO,
Chairman and CEO.

STATE FARM INSURANCE COMPANIES,
Bloomington, IL, April 12, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
Rayburn House Office Building, House of Rep-
resentatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. JUDY BIGGERT,
Longworth House Office Building, House of
Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: As a leader in insurance and financial services, State Farm® strongly supports H. Res. 273. This resolution in support of the goals and ideals of Financial Literacy Month clearly illustrates the need for increased efforts to build financial and economic literacy in the United States, especially among young people.

State Farm is committed to promoting financial literacy among Americans of all ages. In 2006, State Farm contributed more than \$1.3 million dollars to financial literacy programs; and, in 2007, we will contribute nearly \$2 million. Our contributions target the issue of financial literacy in many ways, from grassroots efforts that are led by youth, to training aimed at teacher education, to content designed for adults.

On behalf of State Farm, I congratulate you both on your continued leadership of the Financial and Economic Literacy Caucus. Your commitment to promoting the importance of financial literacy through events like the upcoming Financial Literacy Day on the Hill benefits not only your constituents, but thousands of other Americans seeking access to higher education, homeownership, retirement savings, and other fundamental financial goals.

We look forward to a continued relationship with you as we work to address this very important issue. If State Farm can serve as a resource to you or the Caucus, please feel free to contact me.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL A. FERNANDEZ,
Vice President, Public Affairs.

CONSUMER MORTGAGE COALITION,
Washington, DC, April 15, 2007.

Hon. RUBÉN HINOJOSA,
House of Representatives, Rayburn House Office
Building, Washington, DC.

Hon. Judy Biggert,
House of Representatives,
Longworth House Office Building, Washington,
DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES HINOJOSA AND BIGGERT: The Consumer Mortgage Coalition, a trade association of national mortgage lenders, servicers, and service providers, strongly endorses the bi-partisan Congressional resolution, H.R. 273, supporting April as "Financial Literacy Month". We applaud and thank you and all of the cosponsors of this resolution for your efforts to both raise awareness about the critical need for financial education in the United States and encourage the government and the private sector to work towards our common goal on this issue.

Our nation's finance system offers access to capital and mortgage credit to consumers of almost every economic condition. This has contributed significantly to raising our nation's homeownership rate to the highest in history. Homeownership remains the fundamental first step towards an individual's ability to accumulate personal wealth, as

well as contributing to neighborhood and community stability, among many other attributes.

For most households, purchasing a home is the most significant financial transaction they will ever make. Therefore, it is very important that homebuyers understand and are able to choose the mortgage loan product that best fits their individual financial needs. In order for a consumer to make the right choice, however, they must be financially literate.

Moreover, a well-informed consumer is the first line of defense against mortgage fraud and predatory mortgage origination practices. If consumers are able to fully understand the options before them, they will be better able to defend themselves against those who hope to take advantage of them.

From a broader perspective, our member companies strongly believe that financial education has a direct impact on the economic health of our families, our communities, and our nation.

Again, we thank and applaud you for your leadership on this important initiative.

With best regards, I am

Sincerely,

ANNE C. CANFIELD,
Executive Director.

[From the Washington Post, Mar. 30, 2007]

**MONEY'S ON THE LINE DURING THESE
CLASSES: COLLEGES TEACH FINANCIAL BASICS**
(By Susan Kinzie)

Heather O'Brien graduates from Georgetown University this spring with an education in biology, in English, in history. She leaves with a newfound conviction that she should work in the ministry. And with about \$63,000 in debt.

"When I got here," she said, "finances were the last thing on my mind. I was on my own for the first time, in a new place. It was very exciting—and it seemed like college would last forever."

Now, she's taking one last set of classes. It's a sort of Real World 101, a crash course in money: Georgetown is offering a series of financial literacy workshops for seniors, covering such topics as loan repayment and consolidation, spending, credit cards, taxes and benefits.

The professors and other financial experts leading the classes all say the same thing: If only I'd known this when I was your age.

"These are lessons best learned young," said adjunct business professor Michael Ryan, "when there's not a lot on the line."

Students are leaving college with more debt than ever, now that more of them have to rely on loans, tuition keeps rising and credit cards are being pushed on many campuses. The median education loan debt is nearly \$20,000 for full-time students at four-year colleges. And that's not including credit cards; more than half of students surveyed this winter by Sallie Mae had piled on more than \$5,000 in debt in school. And one-third added more than \$10,000 in credit-card debt.

Some students treat credit cards and student loans like found money, for spring break trips or betting on NCAA brackets. But many are struggling to afford college; nearly a quarter charge part of their tuition. And most need to get used to managing expenses, learning—often the hard way—as they go along.

Now some schools are adding courses on financial basics. Beginning this academic year in Virginia, for example, public universities are required to offer some financial literacy training, said Barry Simmons, Virginia Tech's director of scholarships and financial

aid. The school designed an optional online class, covering budgeting, credit cards and other basics for freshmen. The University of Virginia has a pilot program, too.

Financial companies offer occasional courses on campus, and some have pitched in on the Georgetown classes. The added focus comes as scrutiny on universities' relationships with lenders increases and as Congress moves to ease the burden on students.

Some students arrive on campus used to managing credit, balancing budgets, maybe even trading stocks. But others—

"We get the sense that students don't really understand how money works," said Greg Pasqua, a senior at Georgetown who heads the student-run credit union and helped organize the seminars. "People do things that aren't very intelligent with their money. Overdraw accounts six times on \$2 purchases, and get hit with six fees for buying bubble gum. Or get reported to Equifax because you didn't pay your loan on time, and you're like, 'I'll get it next time.'"

Ryan said, "It's amazing what some students don't know—that 30 to 40 percent of their proceeds will be taxed away . . . Even basic things like 401(k)s," or whether they should put money into the pretax retirement savings accounts.

At two recent workshops at Georgetown, students interrupted to ask, "What is a 401(k), anyway?"

So professors and other experts sorted through the unfamiliar names and the jargon, explained the types of benefit choices they'll be expected to make, how to figure out what their monthly loan payments and take-home pay will be, how to invest in their 20s.

It's not difficult stuff. It's just—who has time to think about credit scores and interest rates when there's so much else going on?

Until a car loan or a lease is turned down because of a bad credit score, or late fees pile up.

When O'Brien was a high school senior in Texas, she was offered a full scholarship to another school. But she loved Georgetown; when she visited, someone told her that everyone there has been given many gifts and that they should think about how to give back.

So she didn't pay too much attention to the details of the loans she was taking out. "When I was a freshman, I was like, 'Loans, great! I don't have to pay them back 'til I stop going to school—cool.'"

It's not just tuition (which is a hefty \$33,000-plus this year, before housing, books and fees.) In Georgetown, with shops selling \$200 jeans and bars mixing \$15 cocktails, there are plenty of ways to bleed money within stumbling distance of campus.

O'Brien didn't make any big mistakes; she was careful. She knew she didn't want to drop a couple of weeks' paychecks from her on-campus job on a top from some little boutique nearby; she'd rather take a bus to shop somewhere cheaper. She's not a big drinker, so she doesn't wake up wondering what happened to her wallet. But she does like ordering music and books online, and she didn't realize how quickly it could add up.

"It wasn't until senior year, when I had to pay my own rent and pay utilities, that I really understood what \$60,000 was," she said, referring to her tuition debt.

This year, too, she started setting rules for herself. "I eat lunch on campus once a week and pack my lunch the other days." And she limits her online purchases to \$20 a month. She opened a separate account for her rent money so she's not tempted to dip into it.

The classes have already changed her mind-set, she said. She learned about inter-

est rates and credit scores. "I have had a couple of late payments that dinged me. I just thought, 'Oh, one day late, not a big deal.'" But in the class she learned that could cost major benefits. "If you go three years [paying] on time, you could have a 3 percent decrease in the interest rate—which is amazing."

She doesn't regret taking out the loans; she had so many great classes at Georgetown that she kept switching majors, from premed to English and so on. "This is the place that made me who I am," she said, "The ideals, the professors, the chaplains, the friends I made."

She's excited to become a chaplain or a grief and crisis counselor at a hospital after graduate school. She knows she won't get paid much, but she's absolutely sure it's what she's meant to do.

"There are some things I look back and wish they were different," she said. She might have taken out smaller loans, with less money for expenses. "I might have had more of a realization that all of that was [racking up] interest and would take a long time to pay back."

Now she has a better idea of how to manage loans and evaluate benefits and salary. The classes reminded her to budget carefully and put money away for retirement when she can.

Then again, she's not sure that had she learned all this earlier it would have changed many of the decisions she made. "Graduation," she said, "was so far away."

**SUPPORTING THE GOALS AND
IDEALS HIGHLIGHTED THROUGH
NATIONAL VOLUNTEER WEEK**

SPEECH OF

HON. PHIL HARE

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Tuesday, April 17, 2007

Mr. HARE. Madam Speaker, in celebration of National Volunteer Week, I rise today to honor the many volunteers in my Congressional District and throughout the country. In 1974, National Volunteer Week was established to encourage Americans to dedicate their time and energy to improving their communities and making a difference in the lives of others. We observe these goals this week and reaffirm our commitment to supporting our Nation's volunteers.

Throughout our country, volunteers make America better by reaching out to help their neighbors in need. These caring individuals give to people who have nothing, mentor children who lack love and attention, feed those who are hungry, and shelter those who are homeless. In the aftermath of hurricanes Katrina and Rita, people throughout the country came forward to help the Gulf Coast recover and rebuild—a true testament of the American spirit.

Since the original enactment of National Volunteer Week, the number of volunteers has increased at incredible rates. The resolution before us today rightfully acknowledges the diligent efforts of these millions of individuals who care deeply about the future of our country and their fellow citizens.

I am extremely proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and urge all my colleagues to vote for its passage.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JULIA CARSON

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. CARSON. Madam Speaker, I regret that I was not able to cast votes on the evening of Tuesday, April 17, 2007 due to the cancellation of my scheduled flight from Indianapolis to Washington's Reagan National Airport and subsequent flight cancellations at Indianapolis. I understand that there was a backlog of eastbound travelers and limited flight options due to previous significant storm systems in the northeast.

Had I been available to vote, I would have voted yes on: roll No. 214; roll No. 215; roll No. 216; roll No. 217 and roll No. 218.

IN CELEBRATION OF THE OPENING
OF THE ED AND RAE SCHOLLMAYER
SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY CENTER

HON. MICHAEL C. BURGESS

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Texas Wesleyan University on the completion of the new Ed and Rae Schollmaier Science and Technology Center.

This new learning center will facilitate access to genomic databases for use in biology, chemistry and computer science courses at Texas Wesleyan. The technology center will be a valued resource for students and faculty working in the disciplines of biology, chemistry, physics, computer science, and math. Texas Wesleyan science educators will be able to provide state-of-the-art learning opportunities to its diverse student body. Undergraduate students at Texas Wesleyan will be provided with scientific research opportunities that are typically available only to graduate students.

Founded in 1890 in Fort Worth, Texas, Wesleyan University is a United Methodist institution dedicated to the education of students in the region and beyond. The University offers a wide range of degrees for undergraduate and graduate students and educates international students from 28 countries.

I congratulate Texas Wesleyan University as it continues to progress as a distinguished and diverse educational institution, and I am proud to represent them in Congress.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, the thoughts and prayers of the entire Nation go out to the families and friends of those who lost loved ones.

What happened at Virginia Tech on Monday was a senseless tragedy and it is important for us to come together and find strength at such a sad time.

This is a time of profound mourning as there are few things more heart wrenching than the loss of so many young lives.

The sight of students and faculty coming together to comfort and support each other, however, is a stirring reminder of our Nation's resolve.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution has my support and the support of everyone who lives in the Fourth Congressional District.

INTRODUCTION OF THE MONTGOMERY G.I. BILL IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 2007

HON. LEE TERRY

OF NEBRASKA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. TERRY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Montgomery G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 2007 to eliminate the burdensome enrollment fee that prevents more of our young soldiers, sailors, airmen and marines from gaining a college education.

Today's military members are consummate professionals meeting the difficult challenges of their service with courage, skill and expertise. Obtaining a college education is critical to expanding their expertise to better serve the United States and the cause of freedom. However, the current \$100 monthly enrollment fee required for participation in the Montgomery G.I. Bill could prevent young enlisted military families from furthering their education.

More than half of the enlisted men and women in our armed forces have family responsibilities that limit their income choices. Currently, only 3.9 percent of enlisted active-duty members of the armed forces have a bachelor's degree, compared to 86.6 percent of the officers' corps. The \$100 per month enrollment fee required for participation in the G.I. Bill sets up an unnecessary barrier to educational opportunities for enlisted military families trying to make ends meet and care for their children.

I have heard from current and former military members, public housing organizations, and groups advocating on behalf of military families that enlisted military members at pay grades E-5 and below would most benefit from the elimination of the \$1,200 annual enrollment fee.

For these families who struggle to meet their basic needs and the needs of their children, an additional \$1,200 each year will have a significant impact on the family budget. The legislation I am introducing today will allow servicemembers to utilize G.I. Bill education benefits to improve their family's circumstances and their future career opportunities.

This legislation would help improve military families' quality of life by ensuring the G.I. Bill continues to provide realistic and relevant educational opportunities to servicemembers defending our country.

The G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 2007 would accomplish two critical goals: Eliminate the \$1,200 G.I. Bill enrollment fee for active duty servicemembers at pay grades E-5 and below, and allow all servicemen and women serving on active duty to opt into the G.I. Bill with no penalty or enrollment fee.

This is an issue of fundamental fairness. The men and women serving our country in wartime should not have to choose between the long-term benefits of the G.I. Bill and the short-term demands of their paycheck.

This legislation will provide tremendous benefits to our Nation. The G.I. Bill is one of the greatest investments ever made by the American people in our economy and the lives of young men and women who selflessly serve in the military. The "Greatest Generation" servicemembers who returned home from WWII and received a higher education under the G.I. Bill became our Nation's entrepreneurs, teachers, doctors and community leaders.

R.C. Thompson, a former Commanding Officer of Top Gun, and a former Commander of a carrier airwing in Afghanistan, said: "This legislation would send a great signal to our young men and women in uniform that our Nation is unified behind them, and our sense of purpose remains strong. I was fortunate to receive my education through the G.I. Bill, and I know that \$100 a month is a lot of money to a young married person serving overseas. This legislation will enable them to do a lot of good for their families when they return home."

I urge my colleagues to join me in improving opportunities for our servicemembers and their families by cosponsoring the Montgomery G.I. Bill Improvement Act of 2007.

H.R. 1495, WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2007; VOTE 233: ON THE MOTION TO RECOMMIT WITH INSTRUCTIONS

HON. JOHN J. HALL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. HALL of New York. Madam Speaker, although I am a staunch advocate of increasing the use of hydroelectric power to meet America's energy needs, I voted against the motion to recommit H.R. 1495 because it does not constitute a good-faith effort to meet this important goal.

Under the guise of supporting renewable energy, the amending language contained in the motion to recommit would have directed the Secretary to undertake a boundless survey of America's waterways and wherever possible to augment existing hydroelectric dams

or build new ones. While supporters of the motion may attempt to portray it as advancing "green" solutions to our energy challenges, the reality is that the language only required economic considerations to be taken into account and provided no framework or guidance regarding the environmental suitability of potential hydroelectric sites or requirements to account for environmental impact mitigation or wildlife protection.

I am strongly supportive of exploring beneficial ways to increase the role that hydroelectricity plays in our energy mix, and look forward to working with my colleagues on pursuing environmentally responsible hydroelectric options such as installing low-head hydroelectric turbines in existing small dams. It is extremely important that we explore such alternatives, but we must do so in a way that is thoughtful, measured, and responsible. The language in the motion to recommit could have opened the door to reckless, counterproductive hydroelectric projects and so I chose to vote against it.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 23RD STREET ASSOCIATION AND ITS 2007 DISTINGUISHED CITIZEN, MR. JOSEPH ROBERTO OF NORTH FORK BANK

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 23rd Street Association, Inc., of New York City, its President, Sharon L. Ullman, and its honoree Joseph Roberto on the occasion of its annual Distinguished Citizen Award Luncheon. This year, the Association is bestowing its Distinguished Citizen Award upon Mr. Joseph Roberto, Divisional Senior Vice President of North Fork Bank, for his outstanding service to the community.

The 23rd Street Association was formed in 1929 by 22 local business leaders to improve environmental conditions and promote economic development in Manhattan. Since that time, the 23rd Street Association and its civic-minded members have devoted themselves to maintaining and improving the quality of life for both businesses and residents of the vital and thriving area of Lower Manhattan between 18th and 28th Streets. Today, the Association plays an active role in the development and growth of the 23rd Street area, including the Gramercy Park and Flatiron neighborhoods and the Stuyvesant Town and Peter Cooper Village middle-income housing developments.

The Association also addresses a broad range of citizen complaints and concerns by working closely with local community boards as well as city, state and federal government agencies. Whether forming a partnership with the New York City Department of Transportation to ameliorate traffic congestion in Lower Manhattan or purchasing and planting hundreds of trees in conjunction with the City Parks Department, the Association's commitment to improving the neighborhoods and communities it serves has been truly remarkable. In recent years, the 23rd Street Association worked to block a plant to substitute a nearby women's shelter with a facility for high-

risk men, a proposal forcefully fought by many local businesses and residents.

This year, the 23rd Street Association is honoring Mr. Joseph Roberto of North Fork Bank with its Distinguished Citizen Award. A veteran of New York's business community, Joseph Roberto began his career by working in his family business, a chain of retail stores known as Pzaz, from 1979 through 1998. In 1998, Mr. Roberto joined North Fork Bank, where he currently serves as the Divisional Senior Vice President for Manhattan. Overseeing the bank's 45 Manhattan locations, Mr. Roberto has still found time and boundless energy to devote to his community and to countless worthy causes ranging from the American Cancer Society to United Cerebral Palsy to the Special Olympics.

The 23rd Street Association's president, Sharon L. Ullman, has compiled an exceptional record of service to the community. She spearheaded the establishment of the new Flatiron/23rd Street Partnership Business Improvement District, working tirelessly for 5 years planning the project, raising the funding needed to bring it to fruition, and inspiring the will and energy to make it such an outstanding success for local businesses and residents alike. She has also dedicated herself to the community by serving as the Warden of Madison Square Park and as a longtime board member of worthwhile organizations like the Associated Blind, Inc. Ms. Ullman was also named one of the top 100 New Yorkers by New York Resident magazine.

Madam Speaker, I request that my colleagues join me in paying tribute to the 23rd Street Association, its president, Sharon L. Ullman, and its honoree, Joseph Roberto, for their outstanding service and dedication to the civic life of our nation's greatest metropolis.

THE GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE SECURITY OVERSIGHT ACT

HON. EDWARD J. MARKEY

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. MARKEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act.

The nexus between global warming and the national security of the United States is a crucial, yet long-ignored, issue. The adverse consequences of rising global temperatures present not only a potential environmental catastrophe but a national security emergency.

The security-related consequences of global warming will range from hampering U.S. military operations to worsening the scarcity of essential resources in already unstable regions—which can lead to the failed states that are a central breeding ground for terrorism. But because the U.S. intelligence community has never analyzed the potential for global warming to harm our national security, we lack a thorough understanding of what these threats are. This means that the Department of Defense and other security agencies cannot comprehensively plan for the security consequences of global warming the way that they plan for countless other serious contingencies.

Today, I am introducing the "Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act." This bill is

cosponsored by the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. BARTLETT) the gentleman from Connecticut, Mr. LARSON, the gentlelady from California, Ms. ESHOO, the gentlelady from California, Ms. SOLIS, the gentlelady from New York, Mr. HALL, the gentleman from Washington, Mr. McDERMOTT, and the gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. OLVER. This legislation will jump-start U.S. defense planning for the security consequences of global warming by authorizing a National Intelligence Estimate (NIE) to assess the implications of global warming to United States security and military operations. Our bill, the House companion to legislation already introduced by Senator DURBIN and Senator HAGEL, will provide a crucial planning and risk-assessment tool as the Congress seeks innovative solutions to global warming. Developed to assess the most serious threats to the United States, NIEs are the most authoritative intelligence judgments on national security issues. This legislation will also fund research by the Defense Department into the consequences for U.S. military operations posed by global warming.

It seems clear that our geopolitical and national security posture will only grow worse if we do not act forcefully to curb our dangerous dependence on imported oil and reduce our emissions of global warming pollution. At the beginning of February, the world's top scientists, as part of the United Nations' Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), provided a scientific smoking gun that human activities were unequivocally responsible for global warming. Two weeks ago, their second report told us what happens when the climatic bullet hits. The developing world will bear the brunt of the collateral damage from our historic global warming emissions, but the United States will experience its own self-inflicted wounds, including threats to our national security and military readiness.

The United States must act now to understand the security implications of global warming. The Global Climate Change Security Oversight Act will allow us to do so.

CONGRATULATIONS TO MR. WILLIE BEASLEY ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 94TH BIRTHDAY ON APRIL 28TH, 2007

HON. DANNY K. DAVIS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, It is with great pleasure that I rise to congratulate Mr. Willie Beasley on the occasion of his 94th birthday which will take place on April 28, 2007. Madam Speaker, to live a long life is indeed desirable and many of us would find it most desirable. However, to live a long, healthy wholesome and productive life is awesome. Such has been the blessed fate of Mr. Willie Beasley who has been a great husband, wonderful father, tremendous churchman and a civic leader who has understood what it should mean to live in a free and democratic society. For many years, Mr. Beasley was an outstanding leader at the Carey Centenary AME Church, he and his family were anchored in the community and to this day his children Ward and Carol continue in his and the family's tradition.

Therefore, Mr. Beasley, I congratulate you on a long productive and beneficial life, I also commend you and your family for your active civic and community involvement. It has been a pleasure to personally know you and your family and to have had you as part of my life. I thank you Madam Speaker.

KURT VONNEGUT, JR.'S CONTRIBUTION TO AMERICAN LITERATURE

HON. DAVID LOEBSACK

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LOEBSACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Kurt Vonnegut Jr. and to extend my condolences to his family on his passing.

While teaching at the Iowa Writers' Workshop, which I am honored to represent in Iowa's Second District, Mr. Vonnegut received the Guggenheim Scholarship to return to Dresden, Germany and begin work on the novel that would eventually come to be known as *Slaughterhouse Five*. Mr. Vonnegut taught at the Workshop from 1965–1967, and Iowa mourns the loss of one of America's finest writers and one of the many fine writers who have helped to carry on the tradition of exceptional writing in Iowa.

Kurt Vonnegut was a writer capable of capturing the imagination of not only his generation, but of America's youth for generations to come. His works examine the moral compass of America, and his often hilarious satirization of the culture of our time has earned him the rightful reputation of America's most celebrated satirist since Mark Twain. Yet he was also a humanist who not only examined some of the most defining moments in our history—most famously World War II in *Slaughterhouse Five*—but also, and in spite of the violence he had seen as a prisoner of war, concluded that human kindness is alive and well. His contributions to American culture are immense and will not soon be forgotten.

Thank you, Mr. Vonnegut, for your contribution to American literature.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT E. GUT

HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. PASCRELL. Madam Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to represent, Mr. Robert E. Gut, who will be recognized on Thursday, April 19, 2007 on the occasion of his retirement, for his dedication to education and scholastic sports.

Bob was born in 1932 to Antonina and Frank Gut. He and siblings Nellie, Stanley and Eugene grew up in the City of Passaic until the family purchased a home and moved to Garfield. Bob attended Holy Rosary Elementary and Pope Pius XII High School in Passaic, where his talents began to shine. He earned varsity letters in three sports each year and was captain of the baseball and basketball teams and co-captain of the football team. Upon his retirement, coach and athletic direc-

tor Paul Kelly called Bob, "The greatest athlete he ever coached—bar none," and "a natural." Bob was named to the All State teams in all three sports. His record has stood the test of time; in 2000 he was named a Passaic County "Player of the Century" in football by the Bergen Record and Herald News.

Bob caught the attention of some of our area's most legendary coaches, Al Yaskiw and Manlio Boverini of Passaic, Arthur Argauer of Garfield, and Paul Kelly of Pope Pius XII. They mentored him, and helped him earn numerous football scholarships. He accepted a full football scholarship to the University of Virginia, where he played offensive center and defensive linebacker. He continued to thrive, being part of a defense that in 1952 was number one in the Nation. In 1954, he returned to Passaic to coach football at Passaic High. Later that year, he completed R.O.T.C. and was commissioned a Second Lieutenant in the U.S. Army. He was sent to Fort Knox, KY for training in the Armor Division, and assigned to serve in Germany. Bob married his wife, Florence, on April 17, 1955, and they moved together to Wieseck, Germany. While there, their daughter, Karen, was born in Frankfurt, Germany.

In 1956, Bob returned from Germany and began his professional career teaching physical education at School 21 in Paterson. During his first year of teaching, he was transferred to Central High where he taught science and was the school's first track coach. In 1965, Central closed, and Bob moved to the new John F. Kennedy High School. While teaching at Kennedy, Bob coached many teams. He became the head coach of golf, track and tennis and was an assistant to many great football coaches like Nelson Graham, Aubrey Lewis, Joe Biscayan, Bob Smith, and Jim Bradshaw. In 1960–65, he was head football coach at Pope Pius XII while teaching at Kennedy. In 1966 he returned to the assistant coach role at Kennedy, and in 1974 became the Knights head coach. In 1974 the football team had its first undefeated season, going 9–0. Importantly, his team never lost a Thanksgiving game to Eastside, and shut the Ghosts out in four of the six games.

In 1979, Bob became the Athletic Director at Kennedy High, which under his leadership in the 1980s and 90s, became known as "Championship High." The Boys Basketball team won four County titles in a row, and a sectional title; the Girls team won five straight county titles and the Tournament of Champions. Championships, League and Sectional titles were also won by the Track, Cross Country, Soccer, Baseball and Football teams. As Athletic Director, Mr. Gut has organized the annual John F. Kennedy All Sports Awards Dinner, and he was involved in the creation of the Central-Kennedy Athletic Hall of Fame.

Bob's professionalism has extended beyond Passaic County. He has long been a high school referee and umpire. He formerly served as President of the Tri-County Basketball Officials Association, which held tournaments for freshman and JV teams from 32 schools. He has served for the past 28 years as the Chairperson of Bowling in the Northern New Jersey Interscholastic League. He has served for 20 years on the Advisory Board and Eligibility Committee of the NJSIAA, the governing body of high school sports in New Jersey, and has been the chairperson of the Eligibility Committee for the past 10 years. He also volun-

teers his time as part of the Passaic County Coaches Association, the Old Timers Association of Greater Paterson, and The Do-Good House.

What Bob is proudest of is his strong moral and ethical standards, which led his coaches to nickname him "The Monsignor." Sportsmanship has always been his first priority for his players, coaches, and the fans. This effort is shown by the many times the NJSIAA has given Kennedy its "Sportsmanship Award," and the NNJL Sportsmanship banners they have earned. Always important to Bob has been his family; he and Florence celebrated their 52nd anniversary this month. His daughter lives nearby with her husband Jim Giblin and their two children. His grandson James is a sophomore at The College of New Jersey and his granddaughter Kristen is a senior at Wayne Valley High School.

The job of a United States Congressman involves much that is rewarding, yet nothing compares to working with and recognizing the efforts of dedicated public servants like Bob.

Madam Speaker, I ask that you join our colleagues, the students of the Paterson Schools, the City of Paterson, the State of New Jersey, Bob's family and friends, and me in recognizing Bob Gut's outstanding service to his community.

IN HONOR OF PETER SHUGERT

HON. ALBIO SIRE

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. SIRE. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of Peter Shugert, Chief Public Affairs Officer of the Army Corps of Engineers, who is about to retire after more than two decades of dedicated service. Mr. Shugert has worked tirelessly, not only to keep area residents informed of vital Corps operations, but he has also gone above and beyond the call of duty by becoming a treasured liaison during emergencies between government agencies and the people of the New York Metropolitan region.

Mr. Shugert, who earned a reputation as a highly credible spokesperson and media representative for the United States Army, began his professional career in the military. His service in the Vietnam War won him the National Defense Service Medal, the Army Commendation Medal, the Vietnam Service Medal and the Vietnam Campaign Medal.

In 1977, Mr. Shugert became Public Affairs Specialist for the Military Traffic Management Command in Virginia, and in 1982, made important contributions to the Office of the Chief of the Army Reserves, where he developed products to increase public awareness.

In his 20 years as Chief of Public Affairs for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers District of New York Division, Mr. Shugert developed and maintained excellent media relations that ensured the best possible image for the Army Corps of Engineers. During his service, Mr. Shugert faced the tragedy of the 9/11 terror attacks and worked around the clock to keep the public informed. His dedication earned him the Locke L. Mouton Award for Excellence in Public Affairs, the Crisis Communications Award, the Superior Civilian Service Medal, and the Civilian Award for Humanitarian Service.

Mr. Shugert also acted as an important liaison between government officials and area residents during the floods that devastated parts of New Jersey in 2000. More recently, he was instrumental in disseminating information during the difficult removal of the Intrepid Museum from Pier 86 in New York, for its reconstruction in Bayonne, New Jersey.

In addition, Mr. Shugert has offered his unwavering support to the Elizabeth River Arthur Kill Watershed Association Earth Day Celebration. The event teaches hundreds of students about the importance of protecting our environment.

Please join me in recognizing Peter Shugert for being the most loyal of civil servants. I congratulate him and wish him continued success in future endeavors.

INTRODUCTION OF THE LEGAL EMPLOYEE VERIFICATION ACT

HON. BRAD ELLSWORTH

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. ELLSWORTH. Madam Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Legal Employee Verification Act and ask for its consideration and support. This bill overhauls the broken employment verification system we have today and replaces it with the mandatory, efficient, and transparent process our country needs.

Today, too many working men and women are denied the job opportunities they deserve because it is more convenient for some employers to go around the system and hire an illegal immigrant. Employers who break the law should be held accountable, and the Employment Eligibility Confirmation System created by this bill will make it more difficult to evade our employment regulations. At the same time, business owners who play by the rules every day can rest assured that they are competing on a level playing field.

Instead of dealing with a confusing process that often yields inconclusive results, if any, employers will quickly know the status of their prospective employees. Within as little as one day, an employer will know whether that person is eligible to work here in the United States. This efficient system will bring peace of mind to both employers and employees by giving definitive answers in reasonable periods of time.

In addition, the Legal Employee Verification Act makes use of the technology used in our nation's immigration documents.

This critical security upgrade currently helps fight identity fraud and gives security officials a new tool to protect our country from those who seek to do us harm. Now this upgrade will also discourage illegal immigrants from using falsified documents to secure jobs here, giving our law-abiding workforce a fair shot at every job available.

I don't fault people for wanting to come to live and work in America. It's a great place to live and raise a family. All I ask is that they do it legally.

Madam Speaker, it's time we get serious about enforcing our immigration and employment laws. The Legal Employee Verification Act will give us important new tools to do just that. It's common-sense policy, and I'm proud to introduce this bill for consideration.

HOMEGROWN TERRORISM PREVENTION ACT OF 2007

HON. JANE HARMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. HARMAN. Madam Speaker, as Chair of the Homeland Security Subcommittee on Intelligence, Information Sharing & Terrorism Risk Assessment, today I am introducing the bipartisan Homegrown Terrorism Prevention Act of 2007. Ranking Member DAVE REICHERT joins me as co-author of this bill.

April 19th marks the 12th anniversary of the Oklahoma City bombing, which claimed 168 lives and injured over 800. Only September 11, 2001, eclipses that dark day as the deadliest act of terrorism on U.S. soil.

My own district in California has not been spared from the threat of homegrown terrorism. An episode there offers a chilling illustration of the type of domestic threat we face. In the spring of 2005, four men—three U.S. citizens and one Pakistani national residing legally in this country—finalized plans for a series of gas station robberies intended to finance terrorist attacks around Los Angeles. Their kill targets were U.S. military bases and recruiting stations, the Israeli Consulate, synagogues filled with worshippers on Jewish holy days, and the El Al ticket counter at LAX.

The indictment alleges the men were pawns of an inmate at Folsom Prison who had embraced radical Islam after being incarcerated and founded the militant prison gang "Assembly of Authentic Islam." One of them was radicalized by the inmate while doing time at Folsom; his accomplices were recruited from a local mosque and had no criminal records.

The men engaged in a spree of 11 armed gas station robberies until their arrest by local police in July 2005. A subsequent search of their apartment uncovered jihadist literature, bulletproof vests and a list of potential targets. Local police promptly contacted the FBI, which led to a major investigation involving more than 200 agents, Los Angeles police detectives, and counterterrorism officials.

The suspects now await trial, and are charged with conspiring to wage war against the U.S. government through terrorism; kill members of the Armed Forces; and murder foreign officials.

Homeland Security Secretary Michael Chertoff has said that "radicalization is a global problem that must be addressed through focused efforts targeting its root causes." This legislation does just that. It would establish a grant program to provide funds to the States to foster badly needed vertical information sharing down to the local level. It would create a Center of Excellence for the Prevention of Radicalization and Home Grown Terrorism to examine the social, criminal, political, psychological, and economic roots of homegrown terrorism and to propose solutions. It would require Homeland Security officials to learn from other nations that have experienced their own Oklahoma City tragedies. And, perhaps most importantly, it would ensure that our cherished civil liberties, the protections and safeguards guaranteed by our Constitution, are protected.

We urge its enactment.

FREEDOM FOR ALFREDO MANUEL PULIDO LÓPEZ

HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak about Dr. Alfredo Manuel Pulido López, a political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

Dr. Pulido López is an independent journalist and a member of the Christian Liberation Movement. Before he became a human rights activist and a leader in the pro-democracy movement in a country oppressed by a totalitarian tyrant, he worked as a dentist. In 1998 he was forced from his job because of his support for democracy and the rule of law. In 2001, Dr. Pulido López joined the "El Mayor" news agency in Camagüey, Cuba to expose the despotism and corruption of the tyranny as an independent journalist. He wrote on all aspects of totalitarian Cuban society and contributed to numerous foreign press agencies because he wished to make known the true nature of the regime that enslaves Cuba.

On March 18, 2003, as part of the regime's deplorable island wide crackdown on peaceful prodemocracy activists, Dr. Pulido López was arrested because he wrote the truth about a ruthless and repressive tyranny. After a sham trial, where he was accused of "endangering independence and the state's territorial integrity" and of "writing tendentious articles on various aspects of national and provincial life," Dr. Pulido López was sentenced to 14 years in a totalitarian dungeon.

On April 18, 2006, Rebecca Rodriguez Souto, Dr. Pulido López's wife, visited her husband and was immediately alarmed by his condition and the severity his deterioration. According to a report she filed with the Committee to Protect Journalists (CJP), Dr. Pulido López is dangerously malnourished, deeply depressed, and having great difficulty breathing. Since his incarceration he has lost over 40 lbs and he finds it difficult to consume the grotesque food fed to the political prisoners. Despite his seriously declining health, Dr. Pulido Lopez continues to be caged in a totalitarian dungeon, sharing its squalor with at least 100 hardened common criminals. He has witnessed innumerable acts of violence and he must continually fear for his life.

Also fearing for her husband's life, Rebecca Rodriguez Souto has repeatedly requested that the tyranny release her husband on medical parole. She has yet to hear a response from the brutal tyrant's machinery. Dr. Pulido López himself has stated that he has no real reason to ask for medical parole since he is an innocent man to begin with, and that what the dictatorship's officials really have to give him is his freedom. To his wife he has explained that with every day he is firmer in his convictions, that he will not renounce them, and that "they (the tyranny) can do what they want."

Dr. Pulido López was arrested because of his belief in liberty. His commitment to freedom, in the face of his declining health and the regime's complete and utter disregard for human rights and dignity, is a testament to the heroism of the Cuban people. It is abominable that just 90 miles from our shores Castro's

subhuman gulags are full of men and women, like Dr. Pulido López, who represent the very best of the Cuban nation.

Madam Speaker, we must speak out against this unconscionable crime against humanity. My Colleagues, we must demand the immediate release of Alfredo Manuel Pulido López and every political prisoner in totalitarian Cuba.

HONORING THE LIFE OF KYLE
ROBERT WILSON

HON. TOM DAVIS

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. TOM DAVIS of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Kyle R. Wilson and to recognize his service to our community.

I come to the floor to speak of the bravery exhibited by Technician Wilson who served on the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue since January of 2006. Technician Wilson and his unit from Occoquan-Woodbridge-Lorton (OWL) Station 12 in Woodbridge responded to a three alarm house fire early on the morning on April 16th, 2007. Tragically, he was killed in the line of duty while heroically attempting to save the lives of others.

Kyle was a longtime resident of Prince William County and attended C.D. Hylton High School in Woodbridge, VA where he was a star baseball player for the Bulldogs. The bravery Kyle demonstrated Monday was typical of his personality. His former baseball coach described him to have all the qualities of a leader, specifically that he was fearless and willing to make sacrifices for others. Due to this strong character and devotion to community, it was no surprise to his coach that Kyle found his calling as a firefighter.

Upon graduation from Hylton, Kyle went on to study athletic training and earned his degree from George Mason University in 2005. He joined the fire department in January 2006, graduating from the recruit academy that June. Assistant Prince William County Fire Chief Kevin McGee described Kyle as an "outstanding young man, who was one of the best of our best." Kyle is survived by his father Bob, mother Sue, brother Chris, sister Kelli, and his girlfriend Kristi Silor.

In my experiences with the department, I have seen its unwavering dedication to the Prince William County community. Kyle was an example of Prince William's finest. Every day firefighters selflessly put their lives on the line to save others, and Kyle made the ultimate sacrifice. Let us never forget the sacrifice he made.

Madam Speaker, in honoring Kyle I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the men and women that put their lives on the line and bravely serve on the Prince William County Department of Fire and Rescue. I extend my heartfelt condolences to Kyle's family, friends, and to his brothers and sisters on the department.

"EXPANDING THE PROMISE FOR
INDIVIDUALS WITH AUTISM ACT
OF 2007"

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I want to express my strongest support for the "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act of 2007," H.R. 1881, and I was very pleased to join my friend and colleague Rep. MIKE DOYLE of Pennsylvania this week in introducing this important legislation. H.R. 1881 addresses a very critical need—to provide assistance to the 1.5 million Americans with autism who are in desperate need of treatments and services throughout their lives.

From my first session in Congress in 1981, I have been a consistent advocate for individuals with developmental disorders, including autism. But autism came into a particularly strong focus in 1998, when two of my constituents, Bobbie and Billie Gallagher of Brick, NJ, contacted me with concerns about an elevated level of autism cases in the township of Brick. The concerns of the Gallaghers—parents of two autistic children themselves—led me to request that the Federal Agency for Toxic Substances and Disease Registry and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, CDC, conduct an investigation into a possible autism cluster in Brick.

The results of this investigation, one of the first federal studies on autism, were quite alarming. Higher rates of autistic disorder and autism spectrum disorders, ASDs, were found in Brick Township relative to rates from previously published studies. However, we have now come to learn that the high rate of autism found in Brick Township was not an isolated incident; it was the window to a nationwide phenomenon.

Earlier this year—on February 8, 2007, the CDC released groundbreaking data documenting the high prevalence of autism around the country. As a result of this landmark study, it is now believed that 1 out of every 150 children born in the United States suffers from a form of autism.

The numbers are even more shocking when you examine the results from New Jersey. Autism was shown to affect 1 in every 94 New Jersey children analyzed in the recent federally funded study. That same study, based on 2002 data, showed that 1 in every 60 boys in New Jersey is afflicted with a form of autism.

While the numbers are profound, it is the reality of the lives behind the numbers which call for our compassion, dedication, and legislative action. The physical, emotional, and financial impacts of autism on individuals, families, and society are staggering. Autism can overwhelm families, as their lives become consumed with the considerable challenges of identifying appropriate biomedical and psychosocial treatments, schooling and other needed support systems for their autistic child—and eventually for an autistic adult. Most of the parents of an autistic child whom I have met express a high level of fear and apprehension about services—such as housing and employment assistance—that will be available when their child becomes an adult.

That is why I joined forces with my friend Mike Doyle to launch in January 2001 the

Congressional Coalition for Autism Research & Education, C.A.R.E., which currently includes over 160 Members of Congress. The goals of the bipartisan Coalition for Autism Research and Education are straightforward, to: increase general awareness of autism and autism spectrum disorders among Members of Congress and policy analysts in Federal government; educate Members of Congress on current and future initiatives and developments regarding autism; serve as a forum where autism-related policy issues can be exchanged, debated, and discussed; bring together public, private, and government entities to pursue legislative initiatives that will help improve the lives of individuals with autism and their families; and promote all means to assist with the challenges of families and loved ones affected by autism.

Although it is still not sufficient, we have had significant success in advocating for increased funding for autism programs—funding that has increased by nearly 10 times the amount it was in the mid-1990s. In 1995, NIH invested about \$10.5 million into autism research. The estimated budget for autism research in fiscal year 06 is nearly 10 times that amount—\$108 million. At the CDC, autism funding has increased from \$287,000 in 1995 to an estimated \$15.1 million in 2006.

By introducing the "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act," EPIAA, we are building on our progress over the past decade and particularly on some legislative accomplishments during the last Congress. Many members of the C.A.R.E. caucus joined in supporting and passing last December the "Combating Autism Act," important legislation which focused on improving autism-related research funded through the National Institutes of Health, autism surveillance, and early screening and diagnosis. Also last year, the caucus was successful in securing in the Fiscal Year 2007 Department of Defense Appropriations bill \$7.5 million in an Army research account for the purpose of improving treatment of individuals with autism.

Notably, these successful efforts to date have focused primarily on surveillance and biomedical research. While these efforts are absolutely critical, the reality is that we have approximately 1.5 million individuals in the U.S. with autism, and they and their families are in desperate need of services to assist them in their daily lives and to help individuals with autism to realize their full potential as members of our communities. Today, we are focusing our efforts on providing services to aid families facing the challenges of providing lifetime care for their autistic children from first diagnosis through adulthood.

The "Expanding the Promise for Individuals with Autism Act of 2007," which was earlier introduced in the Senate and which we introduced this week in the House, is comprehensive legislation which authorizes approximately \$350 million over 5 years to provide treatments and services across the lifespan. It is incumbent upon us to act now to pass this legislation that will facilitate the provision of treatments and services for autistic individuals throughout their lives. As provided for in this legislation, assistance needs to be largely community-based and needs to address early intervention, education, employment, transportation, housing, health, and recreation.

Also, very importantly, the mechanisms authorized in this legislation are designed to provide treatments and services effectively and

efficiently. Those mechanisms include a broad-based Task Force to evaluate evidence-based treatments and services, demonstration grants to enable states to provide evidence-based treatments and services, one-time planning grants and follow-on demonstration grants for states to provide services to adults, and supplemental grants to University Centers of Excellence in Developmental Disabilities Research, Education, and Services to allow the centers to train professionals who treat or serve individuals with autism, as well as the creation of four new University Centers of Excellence. To complement and further enhance the grant programs established under this Act, this legislation also provides assistance to a national nonprofit organization for establishment of a national technical assistance center and provides assistance for protection and advocacy systems.

Additionally, to fill an information gap important to almost all affected families, service providers, and government organizations, the legislation calls for the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study and release a report on the ways in which autism treatments and services are currently financed, including policies for public and private health insurance.

This is truly bipartisan, bicameral legislation, and I am gratified that Representatives ELIOT ENGEL of New York and CHIP PICKERING of Mississippi joined Representative DOYLE and myself in introducing this legislation. We are all most appreciative that critically acclaimed actor and star of the "West Wing" Bradley Whitford, co-founder of Cure Autism Now and board member of Autism Speaks Jonathan Shestack, and President of the Autism Society of America Lee Grossman joined us this week in announcing the introduction of the EPIAA. Their support, along with that of other advocates for individuals with autism, will be critical as this legislation advances in the House and Senate.

OFFERING HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO THE VICTIMS AND THEIR FAMILIES REGARDING THE HORRIFIC VIOLENCE AT VIRGINIA TECH AND TO STUDENTS, FACULTY, ADMINISTRATION AND STAFF AND THEIR FAMILIES WHO HAVE BEEN AFFECTED

SPEECH OF

HON. MARY FALLIN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, April 18, 2007

Ms. FALLIN. Mr. Speaker, today I would like to discuss something that is neither Democrat nor Republican in nature, but simply American. That, Mr. Speaker, is the greatness of this nation and of the American community, the extraordinary ability of American men and women to overcome tragedy and to be stronger for it.

Twelve years ago today, the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building was destroyed by an explosion that claimed the lives of 168 men, women and children, and that left over 800 injured. At the time, it was the deadliest terror attack ever carried out on American soil.

Like everyone else in Oklahoma, I can remember exactly where I was when I heard the

news. I remember seeing the carnage on television, and later that day, in person, and thinking "How can this have happened? What kind of person would do this?" And I saw the acts of one deranged mad man bring our city to a standstill, while the nation watched and grieved.

But even before the smoke and rubble had been cleared, I saw something wonderful. I saw complete strangers coming together, praying, and comforting each other. I saw a state and then an entire nation rally behind the families who had lost their loved ones. And rather than a group of victims, the men and women of Oklahoma became a group of heroes, facing down terrorists and rebuilding both their city and their lives.

Twelve years later, we still bare the scars of that awful day. We will never forget. And today, the Oklahoma City Bombing Memorial stands as a reminder of our pain and our heartbreak in the days and months after that attack.

But the memorial stands for more than that. It reminds us of the strength of our community. It reminds us of a city and a state that came together after a devastating attack to heal itself and to rebuild. And finally, it reminds us of the greatness of this country and of the power of American hope, even in the face of the most heartbreaking of tragedies.

Our memorial is a monument to our sadness. But it is also a monument to our hope and ultimately to our strength. Today we are a thriving city. We have a new federal building which is stronger and safer than the one that was destroyed. And after facing tremendous adversity, we became a stronger people.

On Monday, the nation and the state of Virginia suffered another terrible tragedy, when a crazed gunman shot and killed 33 men and women on the Virginia Tech campus. It is yet another tragedy of almost unimaginable proportions—innocent students living in what they thought was a peaceful sanctuary, only to have their lives cut short by a mad man.

In a time of sadness, I believe that the story of the Oklahoma City Bombing can deliver a message of hope to the families and friends of the victims, and indeed to the nation.

Twelve years ago today we saw tragedy and death. But we also witnessed the healing power of prayer and the strength of friendship and community. We found God in the most trying of times and we found ourselves stronger for it.

My message to the students and faculty of Virginia Tech is this: your community and your faith are more powerful than the destructive urges of one crazed gunman. Again and again the people of this great nation are faced with adversity and tragedy, and again and again we overcome that tragedy and grow stronger. So will you.

And while you struggle to find meaning in this calamity and to deal with the pain and sadness of that terrible event, you should know that all of America stands with you, and prays with you, and will ultimately heal with you.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TED POE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. POE. Madam Speaker, due to other Congressional business, I unfortunately missed a recorded vote on the House floor on Tuesday, April 17, 2007.

Had I been able to vote that day, I would have voted "yes" on rollcall vote No. 214.

ON THE INTRODUCTION OF "THE NORTHWESTERN NEW MEXICO RURAL WATER PROJECTS ACT"

HON. TOM UDALL

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. UDALL of New Mexico. Madam Speaker, I rise today to re-introduce The Northwestern New Mexico Rural Water Projects Act. This legislation, which was also introduced today in the Senate by my colleagues from New Mexico, Senators BINGAMAN and DOMENICI, will ratify the historic San Juan River Settlement Agreement. This agreement, signed by the Navajo Nation and the State of New Mexico, will provide for the development of a rural water system to address the water needs of numerous New Mexicans, many of them members of the Navajo Nation.

Once ratified, the settlement agreement will resolve the Navajo Nation's water rights. It will also provide a water supply for Gallup, New Mexico, and recognize authorized and existing uses of San Juan River basin water. In exchange for relinquishing some of their claims to water from the San Juan River basin, the Navajo Nation will benefit from water development projects which include the Navajo-Gallup project and the Navajo Nation Municipal pipeline. Incredibly, even now in 21st-century America, more than 70,000 Navajos must still haul water daily for residential use. These water projects will go a long way toward rectifying that grievous situation.

The Navajo Nation, the State of New Mexico and many other residents of northwestern New Mexico put a tremendous amount of effort into reaching an agreement that will provide a more secure future for many vulnerable communities. I am proud to be able to contribute today to their hard work and diligent commitment by introducing the legislation in the House. I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass this legislation and move these important water projects forward.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF MR. ROSS P. MARINE, HONORARY CONSUL FOR THE SLOVAK REPUBLIC

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of my constituents, the Honorary Consul for the Slovak Republic, Mr.

Ross P. Marine, for his tireless efforts to bring an important exhibition, focused on the fate of Slovak Jews during World War II, to the Kansas City area. Mr. Marine is a dynamic member of the Consular Corps of Greater Kansas City. And for this reason, the Greater Kansas City Metropolitan Area is very fortunate to have the vital and active Consular Corps of Greater Kansas City, which has been instrumental in fostering cultural exchanges while building economic partnerships between our area and other countries. Time and time again, Mr. Ross P. Marine has proven himself to be one of our most active and dedicated Honorary Consuls in our region.

Years ago, while working for the Truman Medical Center East, Ross became involved in a health partnership program in the Republic of Slovakia, whose mission was to work with abused women and people addicted to drugs and alcohol. In the 3 years that followed, Ross became acquainted with the people and culture. He made many friends and in February 2001, he was honored with the title of Honorary Consul, for the four-state region of Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, and Iowa. Currently, Ross Marine continues to be one of our metropolitan area's most important links to Eastern Europe. He has brought exhibits, business opportunities and international relationships with the Embassy of the Slovak Republic to the people of Missouri's Fifth District. At Ross Marine's request, the Slovak Ambassador to the United States made an official visit to Kansas City for the re-dedication of the Liberty Memorial in 2006, the only national World War I monument in the United States.

Ross's latest endeavor was to spearhead efforts to bring the exhibition "The Tragedy of Slovak Jews" to Kansas City. This important exhibit is the first exhibition to illustrate the betrayal and atrocities committed towards Slovak Jews during World War II. Prepared and presented in cooperation with the National Czech and Slovak Museum and Library in Cedar Rapids, Iowa, this important exhibit was brought to the Kansas City area with the further assistance of the Czech and Slovak Club of Kansas City, the Jewish Community Center of Greater Kansas City, and the Midwest Center for Holocaust Education.

Madam Speaker, please join me in expressing our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Ross P. Marine for his relentless efforts in extending goodwill, not only within the areas surrounding the Fifth Congressional District of Missouri, but to the global community. I urge my colleagues to please join me in expressing our appreciation to Mr. Marine and his endless commitment to the Slovak community. He is a true role model, not just to the Slovak-American community in Missouri, but to our entire society.

IN RECOGNITION OF HOUR CHILDREN AND ITS 2007 HONOREES, ABIGAIL DISNEY, KIRK GOODRICH, AND XIOMARA GUTIERREZ

HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to Hour Children, a not-for-profit social service agency in Long

Island City, New York dedicated to supporting mothers currently or previously incarcerated in prison and to providing a stable and nurturing environment for their children. This month, Hour Children is celebrating its 12th anniversary at its Annual Awards Benefit, where the organization is honoring 3 outstanding individuals: Abigail Disney, Kirk Goodrich and Xiomara Gutierrez.

Originally founded in 1995 by Sister Teresa Fitzgerald, CSJ, for children rendered homeless by their mothers' incarceration, Hour Children has grown into a full-service, multifaceted social service provider to countless families in need. Sister Teresa, familiarly known as "Sister Tessa," secured housing at the Roman Catholic Convent of St. Rita's in Long Island City as a home for these children, and joined with 4 other Sisters to become foster parents. They went on to establish parent support programs at New York State's Bedford Hills and Taconic Correctional Institutions, facilitating visit schedules so that female inmates and their children were able to reunite for a few hours on a regular basis.

Although nearly one third of prisoners in New York State are reincarcerated, Hour Children's rate of recidivism is less than 10 percent because its clients are afforded ample time to make a successful transition to assuming responsibilities for family and work. Hour Children's unique approach begins by forging relationships with its adult clients while they are still in prison, bringing their children to visit regularly, and providing advocacy and mentoring on parenting, domestic violence, and employment counseling, thus easing their transition to reunification with their children. In forging long-term relationships with its clients built on trust, Hour Children helps them to attain independence and self-sufficiency at a pace suited to their needs.

Today, Hour Children is a community of 5 multi-family residences, serving families with children from infancy to 21 years of age. More than 200 "graduates" of its housing program have successfully made the transition to independent living, returning for monthly support group meetings and special events. In addition, Hour Children was officially recognized as a work release site, opening a Community Outreach Center and 3 thrift shops.

Hour Children's success would not have been possible without the extraordinary contributions of its 3 honorees this year. As Co-Founder and President of the Daphne Foundation, Abigail E. Disney, Ph.D., has devoted herself tirelessly to confronting the causes and consequences of poverty in our Nation's greatest city. She was indispensable in securing and providing the first funding for Hour Children's Early Learning program for children ranging from infants to 3-year-olds.

Hour Children is also honoring Kirk Goodrich, Vice President of the Enterprise Social Investment Corporation, one of the Nation's leading providers of community development capital, tax credit equity investments, and development services for affordable housing, mixed-use, and commercial development. His leadership helped secure the financing to enable Hour Children to open a new residence under construction at 35-54 11th Street in Long Island City, where 8 apartment units will be available to Hour Children's client families.

In addition, Hour Children is honoring Xiomara Gutierrez with its First Annual Jean Harris Award. A mother, child care worker,

and trusted confidante to countless families, Xiomara Harris has touched and inspired the Hour Children community with her compassion and dedication.

Madam Speaker, I ask my distinguished colleagues to join me in recognizing the remarkable successes enjoyed by Hour Children in helping countless individuals transcend their circumstances and realize their full potential.

A TRIBUTE TO THE CENTENNIAL CELEBRATION OF PLAINVIEW, TEXAS

HON. RANDY NEUGEBAUER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. NEUGEBAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Plainview, Texas' centennial birthday. For it was in 1907 that the city's founders took the pivotal step from frontier community to an incorporated city.

One hundred years ago, the Santa Fe Railroad decided to put down tracks through Plainview. This helped spur economic growth and attract new residents to the budding community.

Today, Plainview's location along the Ports-to-Plains Trade Corridor is having the same effect as its population grows and new businesses come to the area.

During the past century, Plainview's citizens have witnessed the mode of transportation change from rail to road, and local agriculture evolve from being merely a source of food and fiber to also a source of energy.

However, despite these changes, the core values present at Plainview's founding are still alive and well 100 years later. A strong sense of community and a vibrant civic pride continue to make Plainview, Texas a welcome place for businesses and families.

It is indeed an honor and a privilege to represent the great people of Plainview in the United States Congress, and I wish the city well as it embarks on its second hundred years.

INTRODUCTION OF LEGISLATION TO EXTEND ELIGIBILITY FOR DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS PENSION BENEFITS

HON. NICK J. RAHALL, II

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Mr. RAHALL. Madam Speaker, this week, with the support of the American Legion and West Virginia veteran John Peters, I am again introducing two bills that will honor those who have served our country so bravely in times of conflict. Both pieces of legislation will achieve this by extending benefits to veterans who have served in harms way, though not in a time of declared war.

Throughout the history of the United States, our country has seen the personal courage and sacrifice by millions of Americans who have served in various wars and conflicts protecting our freedoms and our way of life. Madam Speaker, we have honored many of these fine men and women, but not all. Our

current law only awards full pension benefits to those who have served in a designated "period of war" and excludes those who have fought valiantly in other parts of the world.

Tom Hayes of American Legion Post 93 in Kenova, West Virginia recently acknowledged this mockery of our benefits system in an article from the Huntington Herald Dispatch in Huntington, West Virginia dated April 11, 2007. In this article, Mr. Hayes stated "On Oct. 23, 1983, 241 of our finest died in Beirut, Lebanon. By the time the hostility ended on Feb. 8, 1984, 270 Americans had died. Some 20,000 Americans fought on or around Grenada between Oct. 23 and Nov. 21, 1983. Nineteen were killed and 116 were wounded. In Panama, 23 were killed in action and 322 wounded between Dec. 20, 1989 and Jan. 31, 1990. Public Law 101-478 expanded eligibility for membership in the American Legion to Veterans of Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama." In addition, Mr. Hayes wrote, "Subsequent to Jan. 31, 1955, the Vietnam and Gulf War periods (Aug. 5, 1964 to May 7, 1975, and Aug. 2, 1990, to present) have made Korean Veterans eligible for disability pension, leaving approximately half who served between those periods not eligible along with veterans of Lebanon, Grenada, and Panama who answered the call to fight and who may now need financial help and are not eligible for a penny from the VA."

My legislation will end this injustice. My first bill will extend eligibility for veterans' pension benefits to those who served in the areas of the Korean Peninsula, Lebanon, Grenada, and other areas of armed conflict, where their service involved hostile fire or aggression. The second piece of legislation will extend benefits to veterans who have received the expeditionary medal, which is earned by those with whom the Joint Chiefs of Staff have determined were engaged where hostile action by foreign armed forces was imminent.

The United States has sent service personnel to all corners of the globe and in every capacity they have made us proud. Unfortunately, when they return we do not always

treat their honor with the respect that it deserves. We don't fund veterans' healthcare adequately and continue to let our veterans get caught in a never-ending bureaucracy denying them access to basic medical care. I am proud that this Congress has passed substantial Veterans benefits legislation in the past month and I hope that it is signs of more to come.

Madam Speaker, I will end with this, we put these men and women in harm's way because we trusted them and their ability, and they ought to be able to trust our ability. These pieces of legislation would align the sacrifice made with the compensation awarded. I say that these veterans deserve the same benefits afforded their brothers and sisters in arms who participated in declared wars and especially those that are civilian employees and eligible for the same benefits. I urge the Congress to pass this legislation in a swift manner so that we may begin to respect and honor all of our veterans who have served.

IN RECOGNITION OF THE 160TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE HANSON PLACE CENTRAL METHODIST CHURCH

HON. YVETTE D. CLARKE

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, April 19, 2007

Ms. CLARKE. Madam Speaker, it is with great pleasure that I rise today to pay tribute to a Brooklyn landmark, the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church, on the occasion of their 160th Anniversary.

The first Hanson Place Methodist Church building was erected in 1847 at the corner of Hanson Place and St. Felix Street in Brooklyn. There, the history of ecumenical cooperation and community service began with a vibrant, Christ-centered congregation. Seventeen years later, to accommodate phenomenal congregational growth, a second and larger build-

ing was constructed, and dedicated on January 4, 1874. Then, on February 23, 1927, the Central Methodist Episcopal Church came into being by merging the Summerfield Methodist Church with the Hanson Place Methodist Church.

The church rose above challenges when its building purchased in 1874 was considered unsafe and had to be vacated leaving 1650 members belonging to a Church Without a Home as it was reported in the press.

By the end of 1930, sufficient investment had been committed in the Hanson Place Central Methodist Church that the church owned property that covered the entire corner on which to build its new cathedral. A lot on Hanson Place and on St. Felix Street was marked off for the structure, and today stands the Hanson Place Central United Methodist Church at 144 St. Felix Street.

The church's commitment to the community has been shown through their various ministries. Their Campaign Against Hunger has been a valuable resource for more than 15 years. This food pantry provides meals to over 110,000 individuals annually. It utilizes a customer choice approach and adopts a supermarket style of shopping with a nutritional education component.

For the past nine years, their Partnership for the Homeless ministry has provided a safe haven for men. This ministry serves as a resource for the Drop-In Center for the Bond Street Salvation Army. The shelter is open year round including public holidays.

The people who once belonged to a Church Without a Home, serves as a home for so many within a changing and rapidly developing neighborhood within and throughout Brooklyn.

I am honored that the Hanson Place Central Methodist Church has provided countless services to constituents within my district. I ask my colleagues to join me in commending this fine institution for their many years of service and commitment to the people of Brooklyn.